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No 63,243

THE TIMES

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19 1988

30p

Brittan says Scots 'could leave the UK'

Tories need vision to win back north

© Scotland should have home rule if a majority in the province wished so, Mr Leon Brittan said.
© He criticized Conservatives south of the border for failing to promote the Tory vision for Scotland

© The Govan result could benefit Conservatives in the long term, he said, if they pushed their policy.
© Ministers are considering how to advance the Government's cause in Scotland without appearing patronizing

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Scotland should be free to leave the United Kingdom if a majority of its people showed over a long period that they wished to sever the union, Mr Leon Brittan, former Home Secretary, said last night.

But Mr Brittan said he believed the people of Scotland were "millions of votes" away from wanting independence and that now was the time for the Conservative Party to launch a sustained effort to win support north of the border.

Mr Brittan, Conservative MP for Richmond in Yorkshire, said there was an opportunity to be seized by the party in presenting itself as the only one offering the security and strength of the

union "but also a genuinely proud and distinctive future for Scotland".

In the wake of the Scottish National Party's triumph at the Govan by-election last week, he implicitly criticized the record of the party south of the border for failing to help Scottish Conservatives in promoting the Tory vision for Scotland.

While praising the efforts of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr Brittan issued a warning of

Labour rebels wooed.....5

the dangers of the English party being seen to interfere in the Scottish domestic scene.

Mr Brittan, who is due to take up his post as one of the UK's EEC commissioners in January, said: "The Conservative Party south of the border should now play its part in the battle — not by interfering in the Scottish domestic scene — but by giving sympathetic and sustained support for a distinctly Scottish Conservatism."

Mr Brittan advised the party, whose representation was cut from 21 to 10 seats at the last general election, to be alert to specific Scottish traditions and aspirations.

His comments come as ministers consider how to advance the Government's cause in Scotland without resorting to activities viewed as publicity stunts.

He said the Conservative vision for Scotland should be uncompromising in its radicalism "but it must also show a clear recognition that Scotland is different, a deeper understanding of Scottish traditions, sensitivities and aspirations".

Admitting that the Govan result, where Tory support dropped from 12 to 7 per cent, had been a disaster for the Conservatives as well as Lab-

our, Mr Brittan said that the new fluidity in Scottish politics was "dangerous for stability and prosperity".

But he said the Govan result could benefit Conservatives in the long term. "Now is the time, as Labour popularity turns downward, when Conservatives must renew their arguments and explain the Tory vision for Scotland".

He urged the party to promote the Scottish Housing Bill aimed at increasing home ownership and said it would continue to encourage foreign investment.

With the Scottish establishment lining up against a bid by the Australian Elders IXL group for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, Mr Brittan added: "There will be no xenophobic protectionism, but instead free trade."

"If such a vision can be conveyed, a Tory Scotland will remain an integral party of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland".

With the SNP offering a policy of a Scotland free but within the EEC, Mr Brittan admitted that self-determination was a fundamental right.

"If it really could be proved that a majority of Scots seriously and on a sustained basis want Scotland to go its own way within the European Community, then Britain's duty would be clear."

"However vehemently we Tories believe that the Scots would suffer by separation from the rest of the United Kingdom, self-determination is a fundamental right that could not be denied to those unequivocally claiming it".

Mr Brittan did not elaborate on the size of a majority for separation that would be required or the length of time such a majority would have to have shown to exist before Britain would accept Scottish self-determination.

Monsanto withdraws union representation

One of the world's biggest companies has withdrawn the right of its British workers to be represented by trade unions as part of its drive to increase productivity and improve individual performance.

Monsanto, the American chemical company, is giving the 500 workers at two plants in Wales a much better pension package and their salaries will be assessed on performance within pay

ranges. Monsanto's decision was taken in the face of fierce opposition from the Transport and General Workers' Union.

But Dr Derek Shearn, the company's director of manufacturing operations, said most of the workers employed at Radoxon in north Wales and Newport, in Gwent, had been impressed by the "de-unionsation" deal which Monsanto had offered them.

Bruno charms the legal heavyweights

By Simon Barnes

The champion was in the best shape of his life. Yesterday afternoon, Frank Bruno, Britain's top heavyweight boxer, stepped into the witness box and knocked them all dead.

Bruno fights for the heavyweight championship of the world in the New Year. Fearsome though the ordeal will be, the terrors of facing a court full of needle-witted lawyers — heavyweights to a man — must have looked much worse.

The champ dressed for the occasion in a beautiful blue pinstripe suit and a scarlet tie. That great cliff-like brow had been furrowed with concentration as the case continued all week. It is a fight as to who is entitled to which piece of Frank. Al Hamilton, a figure from Bruno's past, who considered himself Bruno's mentor, is claiming that Terry Lawless, Bruno's manager, promised him 5 per cent of Bruno's earnings — to be taken from the manager's official 25 per cent. It's all a

bit sordid, but then court cases always are. Bruno rose above it with some style. His self-possession was epic. Soon he was relaxing, breaking the tensions of the case with a series of mild, but well timed jokes. A lawyer asked: "And you were beaten in that fight, Mr Bruno?" Bruno corrected him: "Beaten up".

He described one former boxing manager as "a harbour shark". He told the court that in his youth, he would be given £10 to catch a mini cab to the gym: "Only I never got one. I kept the money".

In a case of this kind — money, accusations of broken promises, friendships fractured beyond repair — Bruno's charm was a vast relief. Hamilton says he was Bruno's mentor. He said that Bruno would jump off Nelson's column on his say so. What is your opinion on that, Mr Bruno? "It's a load of — well — I wouldn't like to say before the judge, know what I mean?"

Bruno was eager to air his moral views. How could Hamilton have a claim to this 5 per cent, he asked, compared to "my mother what bombed me?" He emphasized his hard work, his obsession with Achieving Things in Life. "I went to gyms just like you went to college", he told a barrister.

The questioning led on to Bruno's alleged restlessness with his manager. He was dissatisfied with the money he got for fighting Joe Bugner, was he not?

"You're often dissatisfied", Bruno said. "I mean, you might be a bit dissatisfied when you get your cheque for this case."

"Tougher", said the barrister, ungrudgingly. In all, it was an impressive performance by a performer in a medium not his own. His charm shone out over the occasion like beacon. And — in the immortal words of court reporters everywhere — the case continues.

Pavement tribute to victims



Firemen paying their respects yesterday to the 31 who died in the King's Cross fire, a year to the day after the disaster. It was a simple and moving tribute, but they made it only after being called to the scene earlier yesterday to inaccurate reports of yet another fire (Mark Ellis and Michael Horsnell write).

Firemen from Soho, from where station officer Colin Towansley, aged 45, lost his life

helping others to safety, were among the first to pay their respects by laying a wreath on the pavement above the underground station

Crowds from Kings Cross, one of the busiest travel centres in London, passing the makeshift memorial, stopped and paid their respects before rushing into the station to catch their trains. New fire alert, page 16

Interim £10,000 for rig survivors

By Kerry Gill

The 62 survivors of the Piper Alpha disaster are to receive interim compensation payments this weekend of £10,000, the Occidental oil company, the platform operators, announced yesterday.

The tax-free payments are being made to all the survivors whether they were employed by Occidental or by one of the contracting companies, and the men will not be required to submit documentation to qualify for the payment.

Mr John Brading, chief executive for the Occidental company in the United Kingdom, said: "We have already promised to look favourably on survivors' claims for compensation. However, these men have sustained mental and physical injuries which are difficult to assess accurately so soon after the incident occurred." He said that in making the interim payments — cheques will be issued over the weekend — the oil company was trying to take care of the men's immediate financial needs, until their solicitors submitted fully documented claims.

Many of the survivors have not worked since the July 6 disaster in which 167 men died. Personnel contracted to Occidental have been paid a minimum of £140 a week. "This will continue for the rest of the year or until alternative work is found for them."

Mr David Burnside, spokesman for the legal group representing the majority of bereaved families and survivors, said he was pleased that the survivors were getting the money, but disappointed that Occidental had seen fit to release the precise amounts.

Inflation rises to three-year high but bank lending slows

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Inflation rose to its highest level for three years last month — but money supply figures showed signs that the Government's counter-inflationary strategy is beginning to work.

Prices rose a full percentage point in October, taking the annual rate up from 5.9 per cent to 6.4 per cent. The main reason was higher mortgage rates, paradoxically one of the main anti-inflation weapons.

Inflation is already higher than the 6.25 per cent rate forecast for the fourth quarter of the year in the Chancellor's autumn statement, and it is expected to rise to a peak of about 7 per cent next summer before falling later in the year. The Treasury has forecast 5 per cent by the final quarter of 1989.

Better news was that bank borrowing by consumers rose much less sharply in October than in recent months. They also borrowed less for house purchase, while credit card holders repaid some of their debts.

As a result, growth in the money supply slowed down, though the measure of money stayed well above the Government's target range of 1-5 per cent, at 7.7 per cent. Fears of

higher interest rates have been slightly dispelled by the dollar's recovery over the past two days. Concerted intervention by the world's big central banks has arrested the decline suffered by the US currency since the election there.

Yesterday the dollar closed in London more than 1 pence higher at DM1.7330. The

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pound closed 1½ cents lower against the dollar at \$1.8170, but unchanged in terms of its effective exchange rate at 77.2.

The gilt-edged market showed some relief at the receding threat of higher interest rates, and prices of long-dated stocks rose by about ½. In the stock market prices were little changed and the FT-SE 100 index closed at 1,823.4, down 0.2.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, said the Government would keep up the fight against inflation.

But the Opposition's Employment spokesman, Mr Michael Meacher, said: "The dramatic rise to 6.4 per cent must cast doubt on the Chancellor's ability to hold inflation to 7 per cent in 1989."

Thatcher plans second meeting with Bush

By Our Foreign Staff

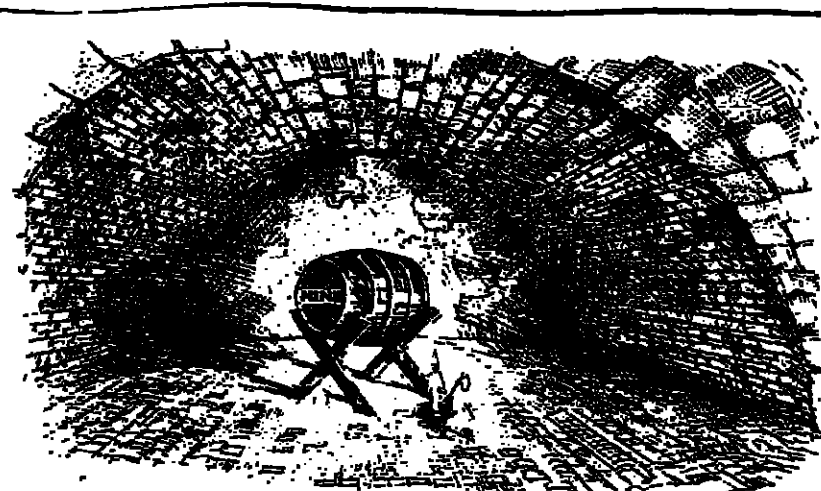
Mrs Thatcher is expected to visit Washington for a second round of talks with President-elect George Bush in the Spring, when she flies to Texas for the birth of her first grandchild.

Mrs Thatcher's son, Mark, and his wife, Diane, are expecting a child a few months after Mr Bush is inaugurated in January.

A second meeting with Mr

Bush would be useful for cementing relations with the new Administration ahead of the summit of the world's seven leading industrial nations in Paris in July.

Mrs Thatcher has made no secret of the fact that she is very impressed by Mr Bush and that she expects the "special relationship" of the Reagan years to continue. Diplomatic offensive, page 9



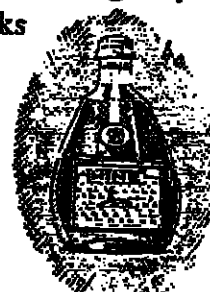
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Referee shut in after defeat

A Scottish football club director who locked the referee and his linesmen in their dressing room for 45 minutes after his side lost, was yesterday fined £1000 by the Scottish League Management Committee. Douglas Park, who has since resigned from Hearts, was accused by the committee of being "irresponsible". Page 45

★★★★★

NEWS ROUNDUP

National's hat trick

The National Theatre took three prizes at yesterday's Evening Standard Drama Awards. Lindsay Duncan and Eric Porter were named best actress and actor *On a Hot Tin Roof*. Richard Eyre, the National's new director, accepted a special award for 25 years of achievement. Peter Shaffer's *Letting Go* was best comedy, and Brian Friel's *Aristocrats* best play. Deborah Warner was named best director for *Titus Andronicus* at the RSC studio, and Timberlake Wertenbaker most promising playwright for *Our Country's Good* at the Royal Court.

£6m cannabis haul

Customs officers seized up to two tonnes of cannabis resin with a street value approaching £6 million from a Dutch registered ketch in Poole harbour, Dorset, yesterday. Three Dutchmen and an American woman were being interviewed last night after the ketch *Gerdina 11* was impounded. It was the second coup on the south coast in two days — half a tonne of cannabis worth £1.5 million was found in an ocean-going yacht and house at Littlehampton on Thursday. Customs said the two discoveries were unconnected.

Tories lose Plymouth

The Conservatives have lost overall control of Plymouth City Council to Labour, two weeks after losing control in Nottingham. They lost a one-seat majority in a by-election in the Trelawney ward. The Democrats and Social Democrats fought each other, and their combined vote would have been enough for victory, but Labour won the seat with 1,385 votes. The Conservatives polled 1,363 votes, Social Democrats 825, Democrats 628, and Green Party 356. The Tories have 30 seats on the council, Labour 20 and other parties 10.

St John ruling delayed

Judgement was reserved yesterday until next week in a High Court damages claim brought against the St John Ambulance Brigade by an accident victim. It is being sued for the first time in its 100-year history, by Sean Cattle, a former schoolboy scumbler, of Anstey, Hertfordshire, over the way he was treated after coming off his motor cycle in April 1984 when he was aged 15. The case could have legal implications on the standards voluntary first aid services are expected to meet.

Hospital call for help as nurses and staff strike

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A hospital had to send out radio appeals for local volunteers yesterday after an all-out indefinite strike by more than 100 nurses and the entire catering and domestic staff.

Managers and administrative staff at the West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven, West Cumbria, had to double up as cooks, cleaners and nursing assistants when 200 Nupe and Cohse staff walked out of the hospital yesterday morning in a widening of the dispute over nurses' grading.

More than 100 nurses were called out by the National Union of Public Employees and the Confederation of Health Service Employees officers, together with all the catering and domestic staff — all Nupe members — half the laundry workers and all the portering staff except two, Mr Peter Gavin, West Cumbria deputy general manager, said.

He said that patients had been moved to other wards to maximize the use of the remaining 400 nurses, who were mainly members of the Royal College of Nursing.

Administrators and volunteers prepared soup and salad lunches for the hospital's 240 patients and sandwiches for the evening meal.

"The strike was totally illegal, it took place without a ballot and the unions are failing to observe rules concerning picket lines", Mr Gavin said. He claimed that the unions did not offer

emergency cover when they pulled nurses out. Some emergency cover was offered by domestics but was insufficient so that was refused, he said.

The hospital is considering legal action against the unions. Yesterday's walkout comes in the wake of 10 days of disruptive action by nurses at the hospital, including a work-to-grade.

Mr Keith Hodgson, Nupe area officer in the Northern region, blamed managers for the spread of the dispute.

"The strike was sparked off by the district saying they would dismiss two nurses for not doing the job they were paid to do. That was bound to pour oil on the fire", he said.

"There was an immediate walkout with support from other staff in the hospital. The district general manager at West Cumbria is refusing to negotiate with us and insists on sticking by rigid rules that have been sent down from region."

Mr Gavin said that all auxiliary nurses in the district had been given a minimum 7.5 per cent rise, which was higher than that offered to many health service staff. A third of all nurses received 20-30 per cent rises, another third 10-20 per cent rises and the rest above 5 per cent.

"There was no way we could get the grading right in over 1,000 cases", Mr Gavin said. No appeals from the work-to-rule nurses were considered.

Glamour glasnost comes to London

MARK PEPPER



These Soviet beauty queens (from left), Miss Gouli Moukhamadova, a fashion designer from Uzbekistan, Miss Sultanat Kamaliev, a fashion model from Kazakhstan, and Miss Zamira Amirbekova, a medical student from Tadzhikistan, are three of the five from that country who arrived yesterday to compete in London tonight in a Miss Asia charity contest, in aid of the Pestalozzi Children's

Village in Sussex. They are the first to come to London since Mr Mikhail Gorbachev decided that some beauty contests might be an acceptable way to show his country's new image to the world. Mr Gennady Alferenko, who organized the local contests the girls won, said: "Believe me, a beauty contest in the Soviet Union was a crazy idea when we started, but now it is commonplace on Soviet television".

Inflation fears after 8.9% Ford deal

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Government fears of wage rises triggering off another inflationary spiral were heightened yesterday when more than 40,000 Ford workers clinched a 8.9 per cent pay settlement — 2.5 percentage points above the inflation rate.

The Ford pay award will be regarded as a benchmark for other unions to follow.

A warning that the Government's economic strategy could be blown off course by increasing pressure for higher wage settlements was given yesterday by Mr Alistair Graham, director of the Industrial Society.

He said that with unemployment falling and serious skill shortages in all parts of the country, Treasury fore-

casts that average earnings growth will slow from 8.8 per cent in 1988-89 to 7.5 per cent in 1989-90 were "unrealistic".

He forecast that if wages and earnings continue to increase as inflation rises then profits could come under pressure as domestic consumption falls and prices have to be cut.

After yesterday's Ford settlement, Mr Jimmy Airlie,

chief negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said the unions would be looking for an even greater increase in the next round of negotiations.

Yesterday's deal was the second part of a two-year agreement — achieved after a damaging strike — giving a 2.5 per cent increase on top of the monthly inflation figure.

Mappa Mundi sale

Watching brief by minister

By Alan Hamilton

Mappa Mundi, the medieval map of the world which Hereford Cathedral is putting up for sale, was an important item in the national heritage whose fate he would be watching with interest, Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said yesterday.

He would not commit himself on whether the Government would be prepared to make special funds available to save the map for the nation, or whether, if sold to a foreign buyer, it would be granted an export licence.

He pointed out, however, that the National Heritage Memorial Fund had been granted £20 million by the Government earlier this year to buy threatened national treasures of great importance.

It emerged yesterday that the cathedral authorities did

not consult the Cathedrals Advisory Commission for England before deciding to sell the map. Consultation is not obligatory, although the General Synod of the Church of England is drawing up legislation, expected on the statute book in 1990, stopping cathedrals selling treasures without the commission's approval.

Dr Richard Gem, of the commission, said yesterday that, if consulted, it would urge Hereford to dispose of the map by private treaty to a British national institution. Two years ago Newcastle Cathedral sold a Tintoretto painting to Newcastle city art gallery.

Mr Colin Shepherd, Conservative MP for Hereford, said yesterday: "We launched an appeal for £1 million, which has now been closed. Now we

are suddenly told that they need £7 million; if the appeal trustees had been kept informed, they might have been able to raise money in other ways which would have avoided the need to sell this treasure."

It was highly unlikely that the map would be granted an export licence, Mr Shepherd said, and it would therefore not realize its full potential sale price. "The proceeds of this sale will just go into the maw of cathedral restoration and vanish without trace. Will we then be confronted in 12 or 24 months' time with similar arguments for the dispersal of the Chained Library?"

The Dean of Hereford, the Very Rev Peter Haynes, said yesterday that the previous appeal had been specifically for repairs to the fabric

Mature students' plea to employers

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

Employers may find themselves short of managers and executives if they continue to discriminate against mature students, the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services said yesterday.

Most of the 413 employers surveyed in April "seem not to have grasped the implications of the decline in numbers of 18-year-olds", the association says.

The Confederation of British Industry has repeatedly urged businesses to cast their net more widely when appointing people to managerial positions, as the number of graduates aged between 21 and 23 is expected to fall by at least 25 per cent in 1994.

Dr Eveline Nicholls of Loughborough University and Mrs Carole Haskel, authors of the association's report, say that both the Government and

the private sector have expressed concern over the number of people going into higher education, and many colleges have made efforts to broaden access and admit those with less traditional qualifications.

However, "there seems little point in opening the door at one end only to have the recently admitted find it closed at the other".

The public sector puts the most effort into recruiting "mature graduates", those recruited after their twenty-fifth birthday, the report says. The Civil Service has raised the maximum age of entry first to 45 and then to 50 over the past eight years.

Survey of Employer Attitudes Towards the Recruitment and Employment of Older Graduates (Middlesex, Polytechnic, Enfield EN3 4SF, £3).

Child care to cut staff shortages

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

More child-care facilities for women would have to be provided by employers to meet growing labour shortages until the 1990s, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday.

Companies would have to ensure that women were offered equal career opportunities. More workers from ethnic minorities and the elderly would also be needed to cover the shortfall.

Mr Fowler said: "Employers are going to have to look for new sources of recruitment, among the longer-term employed, women, ethnic minorities and older workers". It was estimated that women would account for 80 per cent of the workforce increase in the years up to 1995.

Water pesticides 'harmless'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Government said yesterday that "minute traces" of pesticides found in some water supplies posed no danger to public health.

But Mr Michael Howard, the minister at the Department of the Environment responsible for water, admitted that the fact that pesticides were being found at all was a matter for concern. Research was under way to find out how and why it was happening.

Mr Howard was commenting on a report by Friends of the Earth, published yesterday, which claims that nearly 300 water sources in England contain pesticides at levels above the legal limit set by the EEC.

The report says that the detected breaches were in the Anglian, North West, Severn-

Trent, Thames, Wessex and Yorkshire water authority regions. But the absence of reported breaches elsewhere may reflect inadequate investigations by water suppliers.

Sixteen pesticides were identified, of which the most common were Atrazine and Simazine, which are commonly used as "total weed-killers" by local authorities and British Rail. Mr Andrew Lees, of Friends of the Earth, said yesterday both substances should be banned.

Mr Howard said that the EEC limits were not based on toxicological information, but had been set as a precaution when persistent organo-chlorine pesticides were in common use. These had now been largely replaced by less toxic,

degradable substitutes.

The EEC now accepted that the limits should be revised, and the Government would be pressing for them to be set on a more informed basis.

But Mr Lees said that, instead of trying to get the goalposts moved, the Government should be taking action to prevent illegal pollution.

"The Government has no reliable information about the full extent of pesticide contamination in our drinking water, let alone the concentrations present, and cannot properly assess the potential health hazards", he said.

An Investigation of Pesticide Pollution in Drinking Water in England and Wales. Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ, £5.00.



AND THE
SONG FROM
BEGINNING
TO END
I FOUND
AGAIN IN
THE HEART
OF A FRIEND

Longfellow 1807-1882



Henry David Thoreau

'Evil' mother jailed for her sadistic corruption of boys

By Mark Souster

A mother whose "dreadful and evil" debauchery led to the corruption of children in three families was jailed for 12 years in the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Judge Nina Lowry told her she was a cold shrewd and calculating woman whose conduct was inexplicable to the mind of any normal parent. "You began by corrupting your own sons. You incited them and even threatened them to commit homosexual acts. This conduct is inexplicable to the mind of any normal parent. You behaved in this way to children and others because it gave you sexual gratification."

The 50-year-old mother of five boys was one of eight people sentenced at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for sexual abuse of children. She was jailed for 12 years concurrently on each of six counts involving conspiracy to commit gross indecency with children and aiding and abetting others to commit those offences.

Judge Lowry said: "The facts of this case are so dreadful and so evil that precedent and previous cases give me no assistance in making my decision."

She said: "There were two motives for this conduct. One was for sadistic pleasure for, although the children cried, it did not put an end to this, interwoven with it was perverted sexual activity. The second motive was to put fear into the children so they would not tell anyone anything."

One of the woman's sons, aged 21, an unemployed labourer, was found guilty of one count of gross indecency and given a conditional dis-

charge for 12 months. His brother, aged 23, was placed on probation for two years after being convicted of four counts of gross indecency.

Another son, aged 20 - the only one of the defendants to plead guilty - was also put on probation for two years for gross indecency.

The court was told the sons were molested as children and had grown up to carry out similar attacks. Judge Lowry said: "From an early age you were set the most appalling example by your mother. You were instructed and even encouraged to take part in homosexual behaviour."

The court was told the defendants came from three families who lived near each other at New Addington, Surrey.

Also jailed for 12 years concurrently on each of seven offences was a milkman, aged 40, who committed acts of gross indecency with his daughter, now aged 13, and his son, now aged 16. Two other boys were also involved.

The girl told the court that she was only seven when she was first assaulted and attacked with a horse whip. She was beaten like that on two or three occasions and once she was sexually attacked by a man while the others watched.

The judge said: "It is a dreadful fact that when seen by social workers she was so damaged that she did not apparently realize that this conduct is morally wrong."

Judge Lowry said infliction of pain was one of the main aggravating features of the case. "Children were beaten on their bare skin with canes or whips or belts."

The fear factor had kept the

sordid story a secret for years. Long after the events, the children were still frightened to speak about what had happened to them.

The judge said: "These events may never have come to light but it chanced that one young boy eventually told a school teacher."

The judge said depravity became a way of life for the children. "Some came to realize it must be wrong but they didn't know where to turn or what to do." She said some were physically damaged by having to live in "miserable and pitiful" circumstances for years. The girl who was horse-whipped was both physically and emotionally damaged.

All the children victims were damaged emotionally, but it was impossible to measure the full effect on them. "Some will require long-term psychiatric treatment", the judge said.

A driver, aged 39, the stepfather of two of the victims, was jailed for eight years concurrently on each of five charges. He had a previous conviction for molesting a nine year old schoolgirl in 1980.

His wife, aged 41, was given four years on each of two counts of aiding and abetting others to commit gross indecency on children. The judge said she had taken her "unhappy childhood" into account after the court was told she was abused as a child.

"The wife, aged 40, of the milkman was given six years on six counts of gross indecency and aiding and abetting others.

Diplomatic drive for man and beast

STEPHEN MARKESON



By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Gordon Pirie, the man chosen to reopen the British Embassy in Iran, his wife, Maria, and their dog Tarzi yesterday as they were about embark on their overseas trip to Tehran. Mr Pirie surprised many people by deciding to drive to Tehran in his family car, after months of concern over whether it would be safe to send a British diplomat at all. Indeed, it might have been the start of a weekend outing to Brighton rather than a journey of thousands of miles as Mr Gordon Pirie climbed into his new Ford Sierra. The journey will take him and his

wife, who is of Italian origin, through France, Italy, Greece, Turkey and northern Iran. They are not expected to arrive until early next month. Their choice of transport might seem daring, even unwise, but the Foreign Office thought it normal. "In the past people taking up posts much further away than Tehran thought nothing of going by car", one official said. "Diplomats going to India, for example, found that it was a far better way of getting their car there in one piece than shipping it via Bombay. There was always the risk that it would be stripped of parts during the voyage." Mr Pirie can also claim adequate experience, having served twice before in Iran and having

made the journey by car on both occasions. The fact that the Foreign Office did not feel it necessary to order him to go by air, which would have allowed him to be met at the airport by Swedish diplomats who have been looking after British interests, shows how much the tension between Britain and Iran has eased. His predecessor, Mr Edward Chaplin, was beaten up and held overnight in 1987. The embassy has been used only intermittently since the Iranian revolution of 1979, when it was damaged by mobs. Mr Pirie will serve as acting Chargé d'Affaires until a permanent appointment is made. The staff will be built up gradually.

IN THE TIMES NEXT WEEK



Green goddess

● Virginia Bottomley has been called "the forces' sweetheart of Mrs Thatcher's New Model Army". In *The Times* on Monday the junior Environment minister reveals that it is much easier being an MP than an MP's wife, and defends the greening of the Government.

Plus...

● In *The Times* next week, music-lovers have the chance to win the £1,100 *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* - the most celebrated compendium of musical knowledge - plus five days in New York.

WIN £8,000

● The Accumulator £4,000 daily prize was won yesterday by Mrs Denise Wilkinson, of Coedeva, Cwmbran, Gwent. The Accumulator fund stands at £8,000. In addition, there is a chance today to win the £8,000 weekly prize. Games: pages 21, 25

Youth in shootings died accidentally

A youth aged 18 who shot three others in the back with a sawn-off shotgun died accidentally by shooting himself as a police van approached, a jury decided yesterday.

Walsall Coroners' Court was told that the shootings occurred after the youth ran amok in the town centre at Walsall, West Midlands, last September. Anthony Haskett had shot himself as police used the two-tonne police van in an attempt to disarm him.

Mr Aidan Cotter, the coroner, told the jury: "This was an incident which scared and frightened a great many ordinary people in the town centre. Lots of people were running. Lots of people were really scared and they went to the police for help."

He outlined the problem which faced the officers in the van.

"Here was a young man with a sawn-off shotgun and with 75 live cartridges. He had already injured three people and had threatened the occupants of two cars."

"The police had to make a decision and their decision was to knock him down and disarm him. They say they

had not reached him when he put the gun under his chin and fired it. Police officers - I don't mean the SAS but ordinary bobbies in Walsall - faced a situation they had never faced before and, it is to be hoped, they will never have to face again. They had to make a decision and you may think it was a brave one morally."

Mr Ronald Haskett, aged 43, of Walsall, father of the dead youth, said after the unanimous verdict that he was pleased the verdict was not suicide and was happy with the impartiality of the coroner. However, he said: "I am not happy at the way the police have handled this case." He hinted that he might take further action.

Some of the 15 witnesses at the three-day inquest testified that Haskett had shot himself before the police van reached him. However, others gave evidence that he was hit by the van before the gun was fired.

Medical evidence from a government pathologist emphasized that there was no mark on the body, other than that from the gunshot wound, consistent with his death.

Experts in conflict over knife

A pathologist and a forensic scientist clashed in court yesterday over whether a knife blade found behind a radiator at a children's care home may have been used to stab a girl to death.

The blade was found hidden in the television lounge at the home about two weeks after the body of Carol Baldwin, aged 13, was found in a Northampton park.

A girl, now aged 13, denies murder and manslaughter.

The knife, one of three taken by the police, was found in the care home. Professor John Jones, a Home Office pathologist, told Northampton Crown Court: "Any of these three knives could have inflicted the fatal injury. But the one with the thickest blade, the one without a handle, is the most likely of the three."

But Mr Michael Harris, a forensic scientist, said he thought it would have been difficult for the killer to use the handleless blade. He thought the blunt edge would have injured the hand of the attacker. The trial continues on Monday.

Joyriders defy kneecappers

By Peter Davenport

Kneecappings, beatings and even death have failed to cure the persistent young car thieves in Northern Ireland, a conference in Newcastle upon Tyne on car crime was told yesterday.

One teenage joyrider was found back behind the wheel of a stolen car just a few weeks after IRA gunmen left him with a permanent walking disability. He was using his crutches to operate the controls.

Two hundred delegates from the motor industry and police forces throughout the country, discussing the problem of car crime, were left in little doubt about just what a difficult task they face.

The determined joyrider is

undeterred by the risk of accident, apprehension, fines or imprisonment. Dr Rosemary Kilpatrick, who has been carrying out research with the Royal Ulster Constabulary, said.

Others take appalling risks, taunting the security forces into high-speed chases or careering through road blocks, drawing fire from soldiers and police.

Determined thieves often took several vehicles a day; one youngster arrested by police on three separate occasions each time asked for other offences to be taken into consideration: first 40, then 88, then 99. One teenager said he stole up to 18 cars a day. Although the circumstances

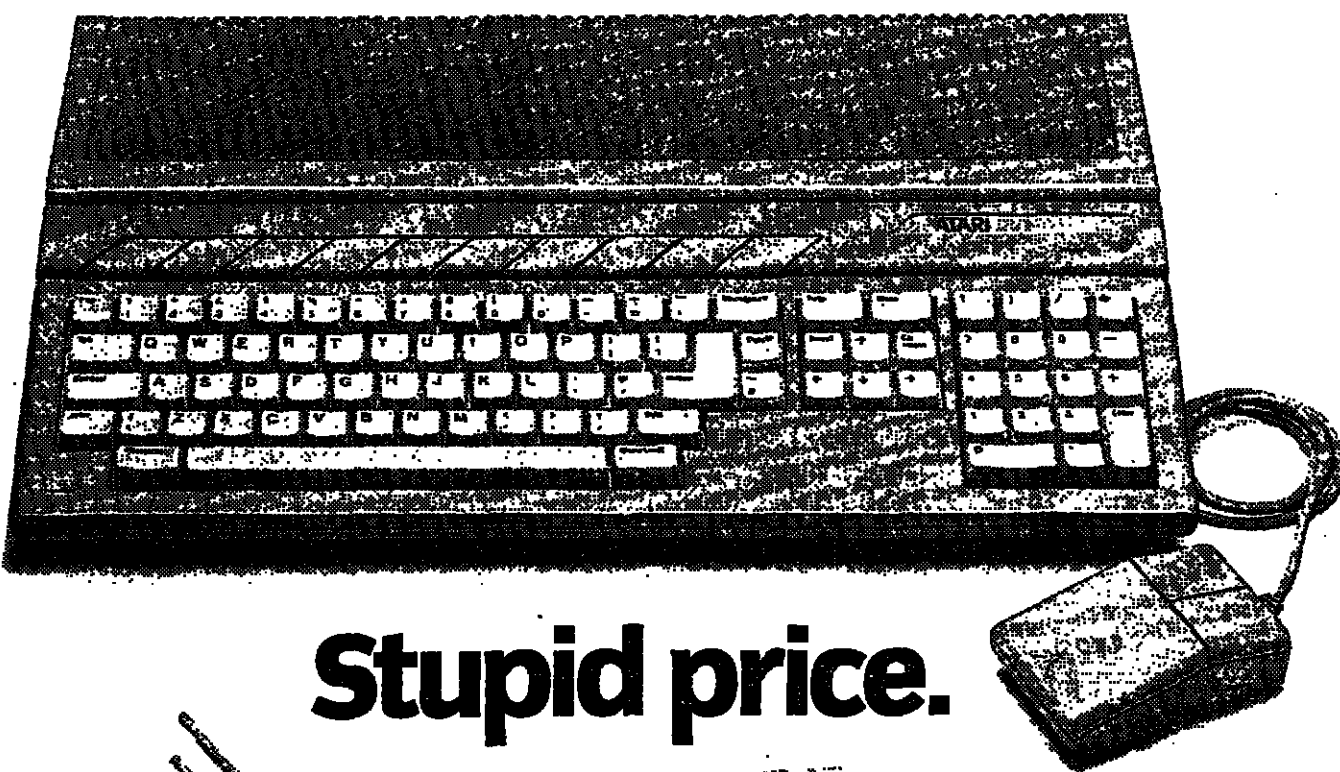
in which the Belfast joyrider operates are unusual, Dr Kilpatrick said that the profile of the offender was common to cities throughout the UK.

The typical car thief, she said, was aged between 10 and 20 years and came from a socially deprived inner-city area where unemployment and poverty were high.

However, even for the joyrider in Belfast who decides to go straight there were problems, Dr Kilpatrick said.

"There remains the small problem of persuading the rest of the world that his identity has changed. He will remain in the threat of attack from the IRA, an outcast on the community and barred from clubs and social centres."

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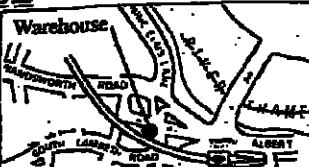
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Breakaway union amazed at response as Welsh miners desert Scargill

Pinstriped pitmen win new members in NUM heartland

By Patrick O'Hanlon

Nottinghamshire miners from the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers, on a recruiting drive in a South Wales toytosh yesterday, admitted to being "amazed" at signing on 125 NUM miners and receiving 350 inquiries.

At 4 am each Thursday, the four pinstripe-suited miners drive the 230 miles to Swansea. They arrive five hours later outside the toytosh and enter it clutching reams of membership forms.

Across the road, a group of National Union of Mineworkers' members shout abuse. Confused Christmas shoppers stop and stare, wondering why miners are picketing a toytosh.

The four have entered this NUM heartland to enlist local labour — both from the NUM and the pit deputies' union, Nacods. In an age of inter-union "poaching" nowhere is it being so boldly or successfully executed as in Swansea.

The glittering prize is Margam — a £90 million development promising 1,000 jobs. The "price" is six-day working, which the NUM leadership including president Mr Arthur Scargill, to the

dismay and frustration of local leaders, refuses even to discuss. This week, Sir Robert Haslam, British Coal chairman, while recognizing the local NUM dilemma, nevertheless offered the UDM, which has embraced flexible working, sole working rights at Margam.

"We have patiently waited for 18 months in the hope that differences would be resolved", he told a Coal Society meeting in Cardiff. "But time has now run out and we must press ahead."

The UDM has wasted no time in seizing the initiative. To their astonishment, their welcome has been warm. Sitting at a table behind a shop window plastered with posters proclaiming U Deserve Margam, Mr Paul Gallant, a miner at Rufford Colliery, Nottinghamshire, said: "Whether the NUM like it or not, the people want these jobs. You have got to work with the new technology and stay profitable. That means keeping pits open and saving jobs."

He proudly displayed a thick address book filled with applications. Completed forms are pushed under the

door during the night. A steady trickle come in off the street returning completed forms or signing on. Those too afraid to sit in the window are ushered to a back room for tea and sympathy.

"You get the odd individual telling you to bugger off", Mr Gallant added. "We didn't know what to expect, and we keep private where we are staying. But the response has amazed us."

Mr Dave Tanswell, a UDM national council delegate, said: "We have been branded pit poachers. The truth is, we just cannot keep up with the response."

The toytosh owner is Mr Richard Lewis, an ambitious right-wing councillor and adept self-publicist, who dreams of becoming the first union (that is, UDM) sponsored Conservative MP.

Mr Des Duffield, the NUM's South Wales president, yesterday dismissed the venture as "cashing in" on people's desperation for a job.

He accused the Coal Board of using Margam as a "carrot", hoping that Welsh miners could persuade their union to endorse a six-day week.



Mr Paul Gallant (right) signing up another member for the Union of Democratic Mineworkers in the Swansea shop.

£20,000-a-year pay marks end of era

By Tim Jones
Employment Affairs Correspondent

The National Union of Mineworkers faces oblivion as an independent union as the day of the £20,000-a-year miner has arrived.

The NUM, faced with dwindling membership and financial pressures, could be taken over next year by the Transport and General Workers' Union. Talks between NUM president Mr

Arthur Scargill and Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the TGWU, on an amalgamation are due to take place in January.

At the same time, the NUM's 90,000 members are earning average wages of £300 a week working on the coalface at some high-development pits. About half this amount comes from bonus productivity schemes which Mr Scargill bitterly opposed. British Coal confirmed yesterday that some miners were earning

up to £20,000 a year as the corporation pushed forward proposals to beat competition from cheap imports.

Mr Ted Horton, South Yorkshire area director, said improvements in productivity meant the region had recruited 20 youths, the unemployed sons of miners, in the first job intake since the 1984-85 strike. Miners had also continued to work the coal face during the summer holiday season when pits had traditionally been closed.

Schools may set teachers' pay rates

By David Tytler
Education Editor

Schools may be allowed to set their own pay rates in an attempt to beat teacher shortages that could threaten the national curriculum.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of the State for Education and Science, has already asked the interim advisory committee on pay to consider introducing regional bonuses where education authorities are finding it difficult to attract sufficient staff, and to top up salaries in subjects where there are shortages, but he is also prepared to consider school by school bargaining.

Speaking on BBC television, Mr Baker said "the possibility is there". Some authorities were already offering incentives to attract extra teachers. He denied that shortages put the national curriculum at risk but admitted there would be too many teachers for some subjects and not enough for others.

Gaming ban

The Home Office gave the lead yesterday for a crack-down on amusement-with-prizes slot machines when it urged local authorities to make full use of their powers to ban them in premises other than amusement arcades, such as fish and chip shops and cafes.

Mayor's test

The Lord Mayor of Bradford's use of his casting vote to push through spending cuts at last month's council meeting is to be challenged in court on Monday. Bradford Law Centre, which is funded by the council, is to seek a judicial review.

Homeless cost

Temporary housing for the homeless cost councils £135 million last year, including £100 million in London, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy reports. *Homelessness Statistics* (CIPFA, 3 Roper Street, London WC2N 6BH, £20).

jailed for life

Mark Leicester, aged 26, of Warrington, Cheshire, was jailed for life at Mold Crown Court yesterday after being convicted of the murder of Lynne Jones, aged 22, mother of a boy aged three, who he stabbed and strangled after she tried to end their affair.

Royal show

Sixty paintings from the royal collection are to go on show at art galleries and museums in Aberdeen, Bristol, Newcastle, Norwich, Plymouth and Sheffield while a five-year renovation programme continues at Windsor Castle, it was announced yesterday.

Soldier guilty

Hazel Elizabeth Branker, aged 21, a soldier in the Ulster Defence Regiment pleaded guilty yesterday at a court in Belfast to supplying the "loyalist" Ulster Defence Association with information. She will be sentenced on Monday.

Prince briefed

Details of a £1 billion development of the sensitive site around St Paul's Cathedral, central London, will be sent to the Prince of Wales before being put on show by the developers on Monday. Plans for the Paternoster Square site have been repeatedly criticized by the prince.

Private rail link for airport

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Plans for a privately-operated passenger rail service to Heathrow airport will be put before the House of Commons within the next 10 days.

A special Bill giving BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, permission to begin work on the proposed £170 million project linking Paddington with the airport is expected to win approval by July.

The rail link, which will enable passengers to reach Heathrow in 16 minutes, should be open by 1993.

BAA officials are studying designs for the trains, which it will own and run, although the trains will run on British Rail track for much of the way before branching on to a line which the BAA is building to the terminals.

Passengers will get regular information on flight times during their journey through

videos suspended from the ceiling and will also be able to buy duty-free vouchers from attendants who will be instructed to make the service on board the train as good as that which will be available on the aircraft. The trains, painted in the BAA colours of grey and green, will probably be built by British Rail to designs laid down by BAA but will be driven by BR drivers.

BAA is planning sharp increases in short-term car parking charges to dissuade commuters from the west using the trains as a quick route to central London.

Drivers who want to stay for less than an hour while they meet or drop off travellers will still be able to park cheaply and long-term car parks prices will remain roughly the same.

Too many new faces arriving in exotic places on cheap charters could put high-spending jet setters to flight (Shona

Crawford Poole, Travel Editor, writes).

They will leave their familiar haunts of the Caribbean and the Far East in their search for status and exclusivity, the goals of traditional long-haul holiday-makers. Tradewinds the specialist tour operator, says.

The company dismisses Acapulco in Mexico as "a north American version of Benidorm". The Bahamas, expensive and Nassau, the capital, is overdeveloped. Singapore "is probably the best bargain", and Barbados the best introduction to the Caribbean. Most operators would choose Grenada for their own holiday.

The Tradewinds report says: "Many clients are being encouraged to trade up from Europe and the Canaries with the enticement of low lead-in prices. Fantastic value, providing clients are aware of what they are buying."

Bar reforms 'will cut costs to clients'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Professions such as chartered accountants and surveyors are set to make wide use of their new right to brief barristers direct rather than through a solicitor, under reforms agreed by the Bar Council.

Both the Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Institute of Chartered Accountants yesterday said the move, which heralds a breakdown in the restrictive

practices of the legal profession, would cut costs and delays. Mr Brian Singleton-Green, secretary of the parliamentary committee of the accountants' institute, said his members would make use of their new right chiefly at first in tax matters.

"It will help them to obtain a service for their clients more quickly and possibly at a reduced cost", he said.

The Institution of Chartered Surveyors said the news was "very welcome" and would be of use particularly in planning cases. "Quite a lot of cases, particularly in contract litigation and planning, are complex and it is useful, and more effective, to be able to go to counsel direct and have the one-to-one contact", a spokesman said.

The change to allow direct

access to counsel by the professions, approved unanimously by the Bar Council, is a significant move.

One of the hallmarks of the split profession has always been that clients must approach counsel through a solicitor.

The reform may be seen as the first step towards allowing direct access by the public.

Labour MP takes on Militant gangs

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Frank Field, the Labour MP, may resign and force a by-election in an attempt to beat what he describes as the "terror gangs" within the party.

Mr Field, chairman of the Commons Social Services Select Committee, has fought to stave off attempts to deselect him in his Birkenhead constituency by people he

describes as Militant and "yuppie" left.

Labour's reselection process is shortly to begin again, and Mr Field is to be challenged. This time he is refusing to organize his supporters, saying their energies are better directed towards helping the party to oppose the Government.

Mr Field says there is a

"distinct possibility" that he will be deselected. If he is, he will resign and force a by-election in which he will fight as an unofficial Labour candidate against the official candidate.

Under Labour Party rules, such a move would mean his automatic expulsion, but if he won the election he would ask Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader,

formally to introduce him when he returned to Westminster and he would ask for the Labour whip.

Mr Field's opponents deny that they are Militant and hard left. They accuse him of wilfully ignoring party rules and policies.

Mr Field had a 15,372 majority over the Conservatives at the last election.

Verdi script fetches £96,000

Sotheby's sale of manuscripts, which yesterday achieved £1.2 million for Kafka's notebook scribbles of his novel *The Trial*, saw more startling prices in its final session yesterday.

The handwritten libretto of Verdi's opera *Il Trovatore*, expected by Sotheby's to fetch £15,000-20,000, sold to Franks, the London dealer, for £96,800.

The text was the last work of librettist Salvatore Cammarano and was extensively annotated and revised by the composer. This appears to be a new and undocumented source for one of Verdi's major works.

An autograph manuscript of Wagner's "Wedding March", part of the opera *Lohengrin* and possibly the most often performed of all musical compositions, was sold for £33,000.

The bidder was Miss Sarah

Powell, buying for the London booksellers Joseph & Sawyer on behalf of a client.

A remarkable letter from Frederic Chopin to the piano manufacturer Pleyel, enthusiastically about the latter's instruments and inquiring after his new "piano" model, commissioned for use at George Sand's house in Majorca, went to a collector for £11,000, double the estimate.

At Christie's English pictures sale, the top lot was a dashing country scene by John Frederick Herring of a horse-drawn gig and groom. It sold within estimate for £374,000 to the Henry Wyndham Fine Art of London.

Less predictably, a portrait of a mysterious cross-legged Mogul lady about to smoke a

hookah, dated 1787, went for £209,000. This doubled the estimate and set a record for the artist, Francesco Renaldi, who spent 10 years of his brief life travelling and painting in India.

More Indian connections cropped up with two magnificent landscapes, one of the Purana Kila near Delhi, the other a military scene at Baranpur, painted by Captain Robert Smith, a little-known artist who served with the Engineers in Penang 1814-18.

The pair of paintings were discovered by Christie's West Country dealer while making a routine valuation on a farm in Dorset. They were found caked in dust and grime, but otherwise undamaged, along with some other pictures in a disused chicken hut.

They both sold to an unnamed bidder for £13,200 and £37,200.

Robots set to match table tennis pros

By Kerry Gill

The expertise of the world's top table tennis players, including number one seed Jiang Jialiang, is under threat from an unlikely source — robots.

An international table tennis competition between robots will be staged at the Edinburgh International Festival of Science and Technology next April, and already Toughy, a Swiss robot, is being quoted as favourite.

Toughy, who usually spends his time at the centre of a research project into high-speed industrial robotics, is reputed to have a formidable serving arm. His main challenger is Charlie, built by Portsmouth Polytechnic for less than £100. Charlie's supporters say that he

lost to Toughy in this year's championships in Switzerland only because he was wrongly programmed. He still managed a respectable defeat of 13-21.

However, the festival organizers are hoping that a new Scottish robot could come forward to challenge Toughy's pre-eminence and, ultimately, take on the Chinese world champion, Mr Jialiang.

Contestants are already expected from England, Finland, Switzerland, Sweden and West Germany, but Mr Howard Firth, the festival director, said they were advertising for a Scottish robot. The successful candidate must be of Scottish origin, have good visual alertness, and be capable of responding rapidly to changing circumstances. The advertisement

stresses that the Edinburgh Science Festival is an equal opportunities employer, but Mr Firth admitted it was difficult to sex a robot.

The competition has an underlying serious purpose, which is to demonstrate publicly the remarkable advances being made in the science of robotics.

Robots are now capable of playing table tennis within defined limits, but scientists believe it is only a matter of time before they become unbeatable by humans, perhaps in the next five years, Mr Firth said.

Last word from the Scottish Table Tennis Association: "At least they are not calling it ping pong."

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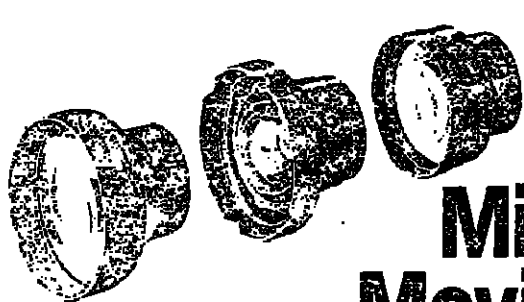
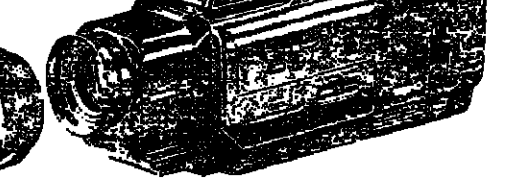
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SNP woos Labour rebels to join its poll tax campaign

By Kerry Gill

The Scottish National Party yesterday sought to capitalize on last week's Govan by-election victory with a call to Labour rebels to join them in refusing to pay the community charge.

The nationalists believe that Mr Jim Sillars's win was as much a vindication of their "Can Pay, Won't Pay" campaign to beat the poll tax as a victory for the SNP.

Pushing forward their moral advantage, the party called for both the Scottish TUC and the Committee of 100 — largely Labour Party members who support non-payment — to help them to fight the tax which is due to come into operation next April.

Mr Kenny MacAskill, who heads the SNP's anti-poll tax campaign, said: "In the aftermath of Govan it is appropriate that all the parties and organizations who support a non-payment campaign should be prepared to examine the common ground."

"With the political division of the by-election behind us, there is now the opportunity to come together again."

"The poll tax is an area where common ground can be found and unity forged among Scots in resisting Thatcher's English Tory Government."

Mr MacAskill said he was writing to Mr Campbell Christie, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, and to Mr Dick

Douglas, Labour MP for Dunfermline West, one of the Labour rebels in the Committee of 100, to discuss co-operation over the non-payment issue.

He said the only way to defeat the poll tax was by non-payment. "Without it, any pretence at unity would be a deception and any campaign condemned to failure", he said.

The Committee of 100 is to be launched officially on Monday and is inspired by Labour Party members incensed at the official party stance of waiting for a Labour government to abolish the poll tax.

The STUC said it would wait to see the SNP's precise intentions before commenting.

● Nationalist feeling in the wake of the Govan by-election threatens Scotland's place within the UK, a government minister said last night.

Mr Michael Forsyth, Under Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, said the Conservatives had to tackle a resurgence of nationalism with an "inescapable responsibility" to spell out the case for Scotland remaining within the Union.

"We must not be side-tracked into yet another sterile debate over devolution", he said. "That option should be rejected immediately, once and for all," Mr Forsyth

sharply criticized the Scottish National Party's policy of independence within the European Community. It was, he said, "sheer deception" to suggest that Scots would have a voice of any note in the 250 million-strong EEC.

"Labour and the SNP have come late to their support for Europe, apparently attracted by the idea of a unified European socialist state as put forward by M Jacques Delors."

"Independence, whether inside or outside Europe, would face Scotland with major problems."

"As with devolution, there would be crippling economic burdens on existing businesses and serious financial disincentives to anyone contemplating investing here."

Mr Forsyth said, Scotland, he said, could not go on forever toying with nationalism, seeking to obtain all the benefits of the Union, yet criticizing the commitment demanded. Such attitudes demeaned the Scottish character.

The British Government, he said, spent 25 per cent more per head in Scotland than in England on providing public services such as health and education, with substantial public funds channelled into the Scottish Development Agency and the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

Artful dodge through the traffic

STEPHEN MARKESON



David Williams-Ellis, a sculptor, steering his latest work, a bronze nude figure called "Tahiti", on top of his car through London traffic yesterday. His studio is in Putney, south London, and he is holding his first big exhibition at the Cadogan Contemporary Gallery in Chelsea on Tuesday. "This particular bronze would not fit in my car. So I bolted it

to a piece of wood and fixed it to the roof rack", he said. Mr Williams-Ellis, whose great-uncle, Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, created the village of Portmeirion in north Wales, has just returned from Los Angeles, where he had staged an exhibition. The bronze is one of a limited edition of six. He sold one in the US. It carries a price tag of £9,500.

'Threat to democracy' condemned by Bishop

By Andrew Pierce

The Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins, made a renewed attack on Government policy last night when he claimed that democracy was being undermined in the name of economic prosperity.

The bishop, speaking at the annual conference of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, urged local authorities to face up to the Government on behalf of the individual.

"Democracy is at present being challenged and undermined in the name of economic prosperity and individual freedom", he said. "The only protection offered to the individual citizen against the organized and organizing powers of the market would seem to be his or her access to purchasing power through the ownership of money."

It was the second significant attack the bishop has made this year.

In his speech at Newcastle Civic Centre last night, Dr Jenkins said: "We must ask how local government and various intermediate organizations can meet this challenge in ways which might direct social and economic possibilities and practicalities in ways which are less threatening."

The Centre for Local Economic Strategies, a local government think-tank, jointly hosted the conference with two Labour councils.

Security firm may oversee tagging

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, yesterday suggested that a private security firm using electronic tagging might be employed to enforce curfews on offenders.

The proposal would fit into new legislation aimed at keeping young adult offenders out of custody. The attraction for Mr Hurd in seeking new means of punishing them is that young men aged 17-20 make up a fifth of all the sentenced males in custody.

Mr Hurd has already given the go-ahead for two or three pilot projects to use tagging on people who would otherwise be remanded in custody. Participation will be voluntary.

The Home Office said: "We are working on a specification for the type of scheme and equipment we want. The firm that wins the contract will be the one to do the monitoring."

Mr Hurd announced details of his proposals for using tagging as an alternative to custody at a National Children's Home conference in Bristol. He said that in cases where custody was not nec-

essary but financial sanctions alone were inadequate, the penalty should, where possible, involve three principles: restrictions on the offender's freedom of action; moves to reduce the risk of further offending; reparation to the community and, if possible, compensation to the victim.

The courts would be able to mix the different components and tailor them to the individual offender. Restrictions on liberty would involve people having to turn up for community service or at a day centre or attendance centre. Alternatively, they could also be required to stay away from football grounds or particular pubs or clubs.

"More restrictively, they could be required to stay at home for specified hours, a curfew. Electronic monitoring, by making such restrictions easier to enforce, might help us to keep more offenders out of custody."

The new order could also provide incentives, with tough initial restrictions being relaxed if the offender complied.

Science report

Freak weather provides 'nuclear winter' insight

Freak weather combined with the smoke from a forest fire last summer left Californians choking and crops dying — but provided climate researchers with a model of the "nuclear winter" that some believe would follow a nuclear war.

Alan Robock, of the University of Maryland, writes in the November 11 issue of the US journal *Science*.

On August 30 last year, lightning storms set off forest fires on the border between California and Oregon which sent a large plume of smoke into the atmosphere.

There, a freak layer of warm air stopped the rising smoke from dispersing and prevented sunlight from reaching the ground. The increasing difference in temperature between the warm air above and the cool ground below served only to strengthen the smoke-trapping effect.

The thick smoke clouds reflected sunlight back into space as well as preventing it from reaching the ground, further intensifying the cooling. The effects were most marked in the steep-sided Klamath River Canyon, where the smoke, once trapped, could not disperse.

The result was a drop in surface temperature of more than 5C below normal for the entire period.

On September 16, winds dispersed the smoke. Without that, the smoke trap could have increased indefinitely as cooling led to yet more smoke being trapped.

Evidence of surface cooling after forest fires is common, but the new data show how prolonged cooling can be triggered by clouds of smoke, bringing winter in the height of summer. **Henry Gee**

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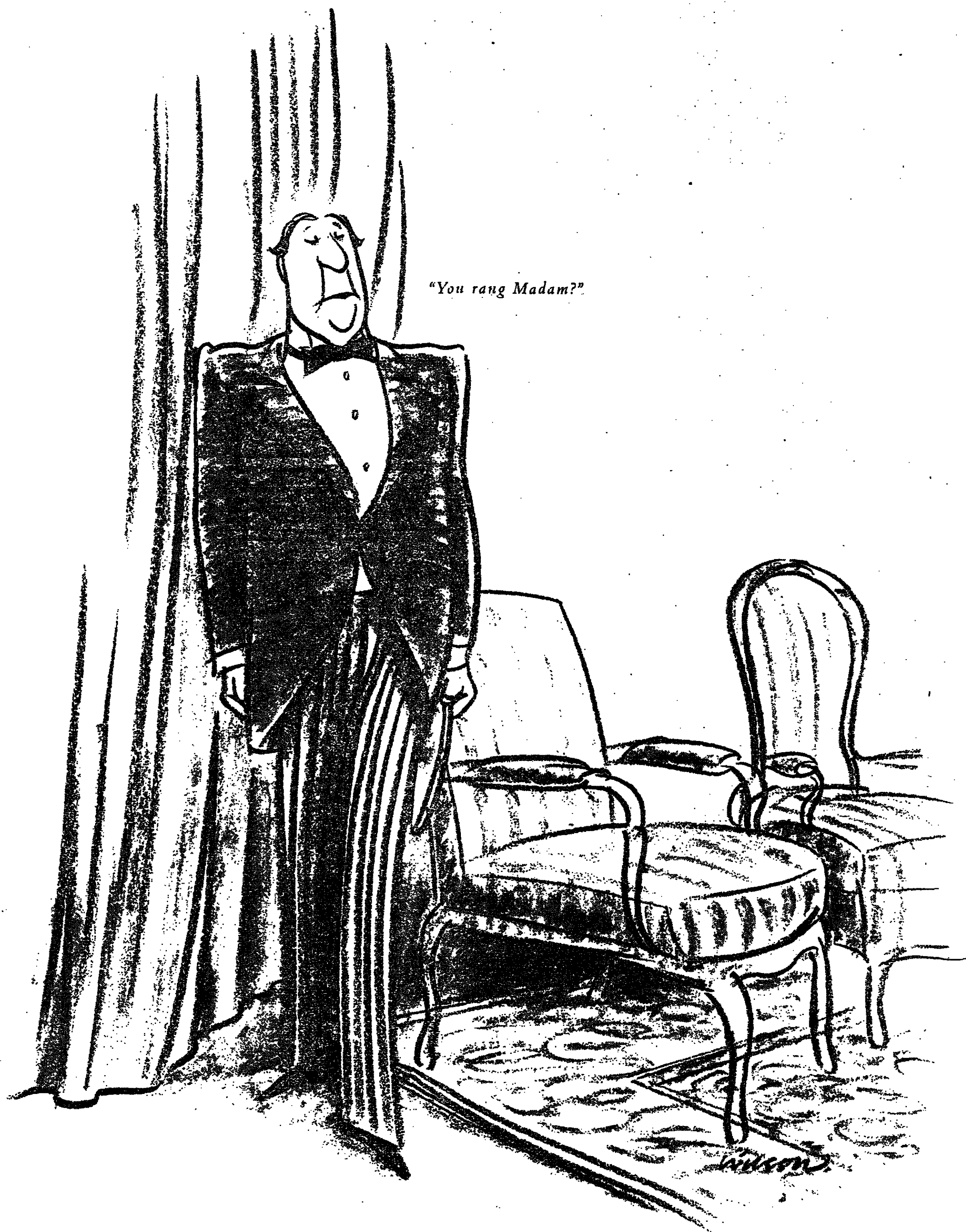
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Anniversary of Kennedy murder revives morbid US obsessions

From Charles Bremner
New York

America has turned back the clock a quarter century this week to relive once again the agony of the Kennedy assassination and ask the old, unanswered questions.

But amidst the haunting images and the explorations of new conspiracy theories that are flooding the television channels, there is a sense that not all may be healthy in the fascination for picking over the old wound.

While the Kennedy family is keeping its observance for the late president's birthday next May, the rest of the country is marking the anniversary of the end of Camelot with an outpouring of television programmes, video tapes, maga-

zines and books. On Thursday night, CBS replaced its usual prime time comedies and crime shows with a two-hour broadcast distilled from 56 hours of news footage of the four days of November 1963, showing everything from the first anguished interruption of the lunchtime soap opera to the muffled drums and riderless horse of the funeral.

Despite wrenching breaks from the black-and-white solemnity to the usual colour commercials, it was for tens of millions of younger viewers a rare glimpse of the event that, according to current consensus, ended an idealistic era and heralded America's years of tumult and malaise. Outgoing CBS, NBC is airing its entire archive of assassination coverage on a cable

network on Tuesday, the day of the anniversary.

But there are undercurrents that are worrying some commentators. Two dozen new books have been timed for launch with the anniversary. The family which made the famous 8mm film of the motorcade in Dallas now charges \$30,000 for each use.

Beyond that, some critics see a morbid side. Mr Charles Paul Freund, a Washington Post editor, wrote a scathing essay this week on "the bizarre ecstasy many Americans experience as a result of the deaths of celebrities, especially youthful and popular ones."

Some experts are treating the national Kennedy obsession like a clinical case. Dr Frederick Good-

win, head of the National Institute of Mental Health, says the Kennedy killing and the other assassinations drove the country a little mad. The Vietnam War, the youth revolution and Watergate were symptoms. America fell into a clinical depression with the assassination and it has not completed its cycle of grief, he says.

"My generation has not healed fully from that deep wound, inflicted during our youth by the wrenching loss of Kennedy," According to Dr Goodwin, "we sought to attach meaning to otherwise unintelligible events through conspiracy theories, but we were thwarted."

As the trail has grown cold, the conspiracy industry has heated up, leading to an eruption this au-

turn. The television menu is thick with documentaries and dramas, including the *Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald*, a five-hour effort starring Mr Gerald Rivera, the king of "shock TV", and based on London Weekend Television's 1986 original. A mail order service for assassination buffs lists 91 titles in print on the subject.

Some critics are lamenting the blurring between fiction and fact that is sure to result from the potpourri of re-enactments, documentaries and info-tainment. Much of this is peddling a menu of conspiracy theories. Britain's Central Television has added a fresh choice with its much disputed documentary last month naming three French gangsters as the assassins. They were said to have

been hired by the Mafia, the current favourites in the 25-year search for the real hand behind Oswald. One of Central's "gunmen" has produced a water-tight alibi and most of the experts have dismissed the French connection as nonsense.

Most of the current theories blame the Mob for the "contract" on Kennedy and name Carlos Marcello, the New Orleans Mafia chief of the time, in particular. Two big books argue the case in detail. One documentary, by Jack Anderson, the investigative journalist, points the finger at President Fidel Castro.

The shifting focus of the conspiracy theorists over the years is almost a running commentary on the national obsessions of the

times. For example, back in the late 1960s and early 1970s, a time when the country's most powerful institutions were distrusted, the favourite invisible hand was that of the Central Intelligence Agency. In the late 1980s, when organized crime is a preoccupation, it is fitting that the Mafia should head the list.

This year, for the first time, there is the chance for you to crouch at the very same Dallas window from which Oswald levelled his sniper's rifle - provided you believe it was actually him - at the president's car on Dealey Plaza down below.

The sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository will be opened to the public in two months' time as a museum.

The struggle to form a government in Pakistan

Provincial polls vital for Bhutto

From Anatol Lieven, Lahore

On the eve of provincial elections which could be crucial to the coming to power of Miss Benazir Bhutto, both main parties in Pakistan were yesterday urgently seeking coalition partners.

Miss Bhutto and her main rival, Mr Nawaz Sharif, the Chief Minister of Punjab, were both in Karachi. It is Miss Bhutto's headquarters, but Mr Sharif was reported to have gone there to woo the Mohajir Qaumi movement, a local ethnic party which won 13 seats in Wednesday's national election.

Miss Bhutto has said that she is also in contact with the movement, but has refused to give details.

Mr Sharif's visit to Karachi just before the provincial elections in his home state is considered here to be a move of some desperation. He has also visited Islamabad, the capital, to see President Ishtiaq Khan and General Aslam Beg, the Chief of Army Staff.

A senior figure in Miss

Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party has claimed, however, that General Beg has already privately congratulated Miss Bhutto on her party emerging as the largest, and has promised that the "transfer of power" will be smooth.

In recent weeks General Beg also has repeatedly stressed that the Army has no wish to intervene at present.

Elections for provincial assemblies are being held in all four provinces, but the most crucial poll is in Punjab, home to more than 60 per cent of Pakistan's population.

There has never been a case where the governments in Islamabad and Lahore have been from different parties, and observers think, were it to happen, it would be a recipe for great unrest.

If, therefore, Mr Sharif's Islamic Democratic Alliance, which made a strong showing in the National Assembly polls in Punjab, can win the provincial elections today, President Ishtiaq Khan may

give him a chance to try to form a national government by winning over smaller parties and independents.

Observers believe Mr Sharif might well be able to do achieve this, despite the alliance having only 54 National Assembly seats to Miss Bhutto's 92.

If the alliance loses Punjab, however, its chances of national government will be gone, and the President will have no choice but to call Miss Bhutto to power.

Observers believe the existing government of Punjab may attempt a certain amount of ballot rigging today, although not on a scale to provoke violence, which has been notably absent from the electoral process here.

● KARACHI: The third largest group in Pakistan's newly elected National Assembly, the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, which is playing a crucial role in attempts to form a coalition government, is a militant nationalist

organization of the Urdu-speaking Mohajirs, who migrated from India after the partition of the sub-continent in 1947.

(Zahid Hussain writes). The party experienced a phenomenal rise on the political scene within a few years of its formation and now virtually controls Pakistan's two most important cities, Karachi and Hyderabad.

Led by Mr Altaf Hussain, aged 34, a pharmacy graduate of Karachi University, the party enjoys the support of more than nine million Mohajirs, constituting the majority of the urban Sind population.

Although most of the party's leaders are from lower middle-class backgrounds, they have succeeded in rallying all sections of the Urdu-speaking community on the issue of separate nationality status for the Mohajirs.

The party showed its political strength for the first time when it swept the municipal elections in Karachi and

Hyderabad in November 1987. This week marked the first time the party had contested the parliamentary elections.

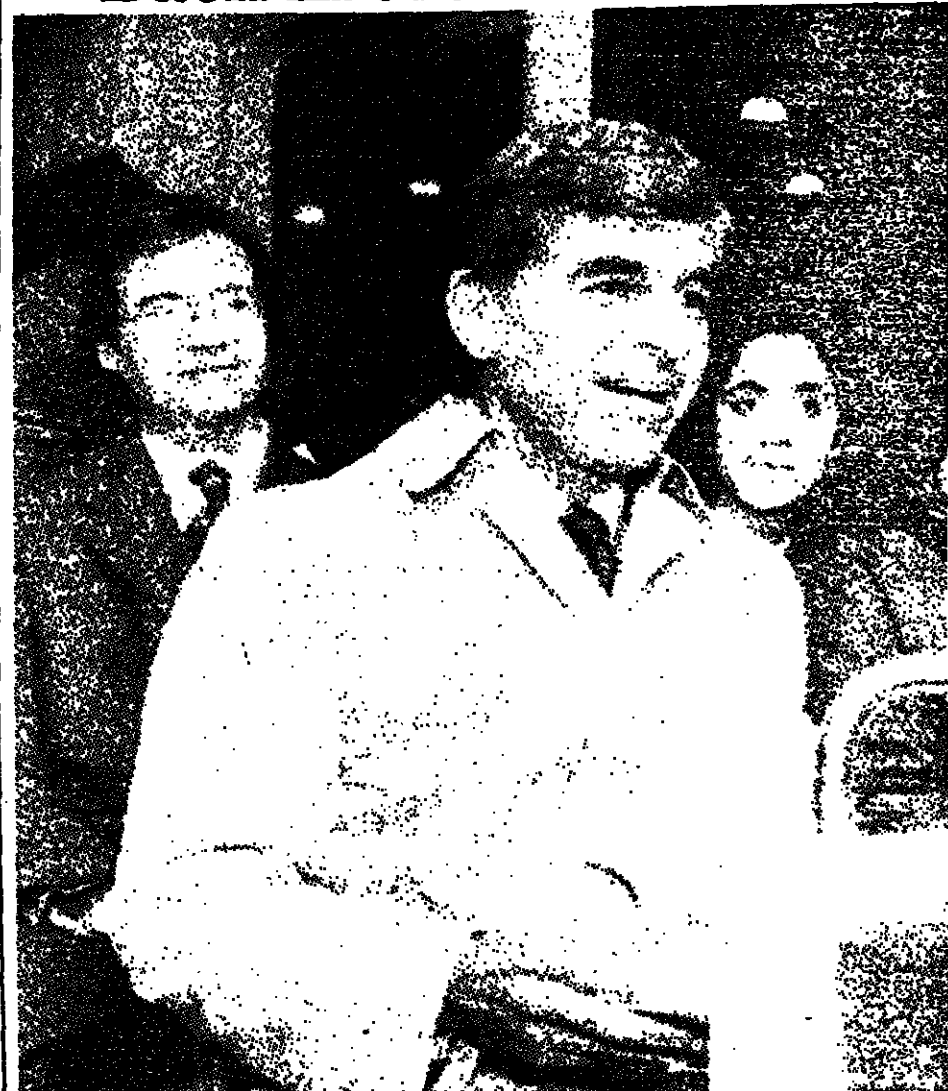
So far it is keeping its options open for an alliance with both Miss Bhutto and Mr Sharif.

Speaking to the press on Thursday, Mr Hussain said that his party would bargain hard with the two bigger parliamentary groups on the basis of its 25-point "charter of demand".

The charter includes demands for equal job opportunities, a greater share in administration and recognition of Mohajirs as a separate nationality.

"We are prepared to negotiate with any party which recognizes Mohajir reality and takes practical steps to solve Mohajir problems," Mr Hussain said. Any party seeking his group's co-operation would have to declare that it recognized the Mohajirs as Pakistan's fifth nationality.

Back in the old routine



Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts travelling home with other commuters on the Boston transit after a routine day's work at the State House, just over a week after his defeat by Vice-President George Bush, the Republican candidate, in the US presidential elections.

Security tightened as Sri Lankans vote

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Eastern Province goes to the polls today to elect members to a Provincial Council whose only enthusiastic supporters are President Jayewardene and Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister.

There is strong opposition within the Sri Lankan Cabinet to the elections, but attempts to have it postponed have failed in the face of the President's insistence that they must be held.

The Eastern Province has been merged with the Northern Province to form one Provincial Council which will be dominated by the minority Tamil community, much to the annoyance of the majority Sinhala community.

The Sinhalese have resisted such a merger, saying that it will be the first step towards the formation of a separate

state called Eelam by the Tamils. Nomination day for the elections in the Eastern Province was the excuse for the Marxist extremist Sinhala group, the JVP (People's Liberation Front) to invoke a general strike.

The elections to the Northern Province were never held because the candidates there were declared elected unopposed. Two pro-Indian Tamil groups, the EPRLF (23 seats) and ENDLF (13 seats) shared the spoils.

The EPRLF is contesting the elections in the east today but not the ENDLF. The EPRLF is expected to have the majority of the seats in the merged provinces thus dominating the council.

Another group expected to make its presence felt is the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress which has quite a following in

the east among the minority Muslims.

But thousands of refugees from the majority Sinhala community, driven away by persistent attacks by Tamil guerrilla groups, will not be able to vote. Parliament made no provision for the election in the east to be delayed until the Sinhala refugees returned to their homes.

The polls are being held under tight security, with India bringing in more troops in addition to the 50,000 who are already on the island to give protection to voters and the election staff. But the militant Tamil guerrilla group which is opposed to the elections, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), have made it clear it will not accept the result of such an election and yesterday called for a total strike in the Eastern Province

to try to sabotage the election. Polling is expected to be low and the results will be known on Sunday.

It is believed that soon after the vote President Jayewardene will announce a date for a referendum in the Eastern Province to ascertain whether the people there think the merger with the north should be a permanent feature.

The referendum is likely to take place before the end of the year. If he does so, Sri Lanka would have fulfilled all its obligations under the Indo-Lanka accord of July, 1987, and the President's UNP can say that the ball is now in India's court to disarm the militant LTTE.

● Bomb attack: Security will be further tightened at presidential election rallies in Sri Lanka after a bomb attack

killed three people at an opposition meeting, a police official said yesterday (Reuters reports).

About 75 people were injured on Thursday when two bombs were flung at the rally in support of Mr Ossie Abeyegoonsekera, candidate of the small leftist People's Party.

Witnesses said most were injured when the crowd of about 5,000 stampeded away from the scene of the rally at a road intersection in a congested area of Colombo.

"There was pandemonium. People ran here and there and fell over each other. Many were trampled," one witness said.

Mr Abeyegoonsekera, the vice-president of the party, escaped without injury, but its secretary, Mr Y.P. de Silva was injured.

Peres assails PLO statement

From David Bernstein
Jerusalem

Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, yesterday called in 43 of the 44 resident foreign ambassadors in Israel as part of the country's all-out diplomatic drive against last Monday's Algiers declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

Mr Peres detailed Israel's objection to the declaration, made by Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, at the Palestine National Council meeting, telling the ambassadors the move would not advance the cause of peace and might even set it back by creating a "united rejection

front" in Israel. He said he still supported the idea of an international peace conference "in principle", but was sceptical about its chances of amounting to anything without the support of Jordan, which has formally recognized the Palestinian state, or the participation of moderate Palestinians.

Nevertheless, he concluded, every effort needed to be made to find a channel for negotiation, this being much more important than arguing over the declaration's ambiguities.

Only the Turkish envoy, whose country was among the first to recognize the Palestinian state, did not attend yesterday's meeting at the

Foreign Ministry here. He already had been summoned to the ministry earlier in the week to be told of Israel's displeasure.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday refused to react to reports that Cyprus had become the second country having diplomatic relations with Israel to recognize the new state.

The spokesman responded similarly to reports from Moscow that the Soviet Union had decided to recognize the Palestinian "proclamation of independence".

He said there were several ambiguities in the Soviet position that required clarification.

Southern African trials

Whites sentenced to hang

From Jan Raath, Harare

Three Zimbabweans, all former members of undercover Rhodesian security force units, were sentenced to hang yesterday for their role in a South African attack on an African National Congress residence in Zimbabwe in which an innocent man died.

Mr Justice Wilson Sandura found Kevin Woods, aged 35, a senior officer in the Zimbabwean Central Intelligence Organization until late last year and previously a Rhodesian Special Branch officer, Michael Smith, aged 34, a former trooper with the crack Rhodesian Special Air Service until independence in 1980, and Phillip Conjwayo, aged 52, also a former long-serving member of the Special Branch, guilty of murder.

Woods, the patriarchally bearded double agent, defiantly told the court after the judge issued sentence that his and Smith's action in helping South African explosives experts to damage severely the ANC house was "on behalf of

the South African people who suffer mayhem and death on almost a daily basis at the hands of ANC murderers".

He told the court, packed with ANC officials and CIO officers, that their sentence was "a moral injustice in the extreme" while "ANC perpetrators roam the streets of this country in clover".

It is the first time that white Zimbabweans have been convicted and sentenced to death for involvement in South Africa's campaign of "destabilization" of the frontline states.

Woods and Smith are to go on trial in January again, with another white Zimbabwean arrested with them in January, for their alleged role in the attack in May, 1986, by South African commandos on an ANC residence in Harare.

Smith, who has admitted allegiance to South Africa and that he served in the South African defence forces for a year in 1980 before returning to Zimbabwe, smiled de-

risively when the black judge gave his verdict.

● PRETORIA: A Supreme Court judge yesterday convicted four leading black anti-apartheid campaigners of treason and found seven others guilty of terrorism at the end of one of the longest and most important political show-trials in South African history (Michael Hurnsby writes). Eight others accused were acquitted.

Mr Justice Kees van Dijkhorst also found that the organization to which most of the 19 accused belonged, the United Democratic Front, had been guilty of plotting to overthrow the state, and that violence was "an inevitable and necessary component" of its policy.

There will now be an adjournment in proceedings until December 5 when defence counsel will lead evidence in mitigation. Sentence will then be passed. The defence counsel also made clear that they will appeal.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Chun accused of plotting killings

Seoul - Mr Kim Dae Jung, the South Korean opposition leader, yesterday accused ex-President Chun Doo Hwan of plotting the May 1980 massacre of hundreds of civilian protesters in the city of Kwang Ju as part of his scheme to seize power (John Gittelson writes).

In the first day of public hearings on the uprising, Mr Kim recounted details of his imprisonment and his version of the circumstances behind the anti-martial law protest that led to the massacre. A previous official investigation under Mr Chun found 193 people, including 22 soldiers, died during the 12-day uprising. Mr Kim claimed as many as 1,000 people were killed.

Cuba accepts pact

Havana (Reuters) - Cuba announced yesterday that it had accepted the terms of an understanding on a peace plan for south-western Africa with a statement in its official newspaper, *Granma*, stating that it had informed the US, the mediator in the talks, of its decision after negotiations in Geneva between Angola, Cuba and South Africa.

The announcement effectively paves the way for the signing of a peace agreement on the withdrawal of the 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola and independence for South African-ruled Namibia. The signing is expected to take place in Brazzaville, Congo, at a date to be announced.

Peace plan optimism

San Salvador - The weeklong meeting of the Organization of American States closes today with cautious optimism of progress in central America's stalled peace process (Tom Gibb writes). A proposal by Costa Rica to set up an international monitoring group on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border was well received. The frontier has long been used by US-backed Contra rebels to attack the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua. Although the idea is not new, there is a feeling that, with the Contras apparently a dying force, conditions for an accord are more favourable.

Work law opposed

Brussels - Mr Francis Maude, the Minister for Corporate Affairs, yesterday reiterated Britain's implacable opposition to plans by the European Commission to draft legislation for a European company statute that would give workers a say in the running of their companies. Mr Maude said the Commission's proposal was unnecessary, and would be a damaging restriction on the newly-created competitive atmosphere of European business.

Mother guilty of killing son

Santa Ana (Reuters) - A woman who claimed she was suffering from an extreme form of "baby blues" when she ran over her infant son and dumped his body in a rubbish bin has been found guilty of second-degree murder in this California town. Sheryl Massip, aged 24, sobbed as a jury disregarded her plea that she was temporarily insane when she killed her six-week-old son Michael on her birthday in April, 1987.

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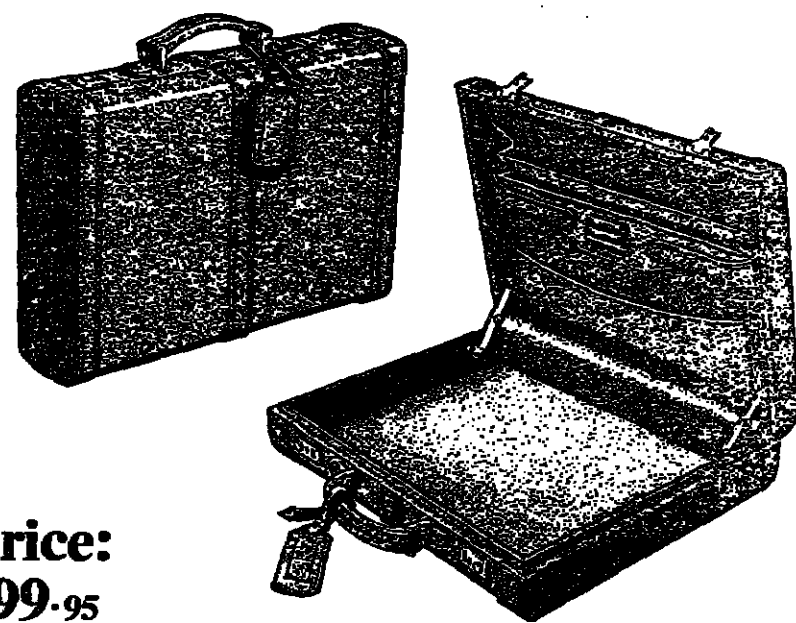
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Gorbachov in India to cement ties

From Edward Gorman, Delhi

The fanfare of publicity surrounding President Gorbachov's decision to go to Britain and the United States next month has obscured to some extent his long-scheduled visit to India, which began yesterday.

The Indians, however, have no doubts about its significance, and they are making the most of the fact that this is Mr Gorbachov's second state visit in two years and his first since becoming President.

The Soviet Union, for its part, seems keen to use the three-day visit to reassure India, its only non-communist ally, of its continued friendship in the light of Mr Gorbachov's reappraisal of Soviet foreign policy.

In particular, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, will seek reassurances that Moscow's improving relations with China will neither damage Indo-Soviet ties nor compromise India's stand in its long-running border dispute with Peking.

The rapidly changing situation in Afghanistan, Cambodia, the likely impact on the region of a new government in Pakistan, and the impact of a new US president will be on the agenda. Both leaders are also expected to place strong emphasis on nuclear disarmament.

Although no important treaties or declarations are expected this time, a series of economic, cultural and scientific agreements, the most

notable of which gives the go-ahead for the construction of two Soviet-designed nuclear power stations in India, will be signed by the leaders tomorrow as part of a general strengthening of economic and political relations.

Mr Gorbachov, in a light blue suit, flanked by Raisa in a matching light-blue skirt and jacket, stepped off his special flight from Tashkent exactly on schedule at midday. He was greeted by Mr Gandhi and his wife, Sonia.

After greeting a long line of resident Soviet diplomats, Mr Gorbachov, whose delegation of 20 top advisers includes Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Foreign Minister, was driven away at the head of a huge cavalcade led by 11 black bullet-proof Zill limousines flown in from Moscow.

The Soviet leader was later received at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the presidential palace, by President Venkatarman and a 21-gun salute.

A first round of informal talks with the Prime Minister followed lunch with Mr Venkatarman, who was also the host at a formal banquet for Mr Gorbachov last night.

Western diplomats say this visit by the Soviet leader is likely to be less significant than the one two years ago.

They expect China and Afghanistan to dominate discussions. The Chinese Foreign Minister is due in Moscow soon as part of preparations for the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years, which is to be held next year. Mr Gandhi is to make his first visit to Peking in the third week in December.

Notwithstanding India's own relations with Peking, diplomats say Delhi remains nervous of closer ties between



Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, welcoming President Gorbachov to Delhi yesterday.

the Chinese and Moscow. The Indians are also nervous of any change in the triangular relationship between the three countries, which has traditionally featured a strong stand against the Chinese by the Indians and Russians together.

The Soviet Union, meanwhile, will be trying to encourage an improvement in relations between India and Pakistan which, it will argue, could benefit as a result of a new democratically elected government being installed in Islamabad after 11 years of military rule.

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Canada election campaign

Aura of quaintness masks mean war of words on TV

From Christopher Thomas, Quebec City

Canada's general election campaign, although mercifully free of balloons, bands and film stars, is nevertheless seriously contaminated with some of the ugliest traits of American-style electioneering. Television advertising, in particular, has become every bit as mean and low.

But delightful and striking differences survive. Security, for example, is unbelievably easy-going.

The Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, likes to throw himself into the middle of huge crowds, pumping hands and hugging strangers while a handful of security men watch contentedly from a distance. They seem glad that their charge is having such a nice time.

There are no rooftop police marksmen, no circling helicopters, no 20-car convoys or squealing of sirens. There is not even an ever-present ambulance or a permanently assigned doctor on the scene, as there is when an American candidate campaigns. Swivel-eyed Secret Service agents are nowhere to be found. Nor are there any airport-style metal detectors, a mainstay of the US campaign trail.

Election rallies are decidedly casual, and they are even political. Real hecklers are not

frog-marched outside. In Canada, body searches for bombs and firearms rarely occur on the campaign trail. Voters are able to stroll unhindered into city halls and church basements, without first having to submit to uniformed security personnel who make them turn out pockets and empty handbags.

Press photographers do not have their equipment snuffed anti-Americanism. Mr Turner is routinely described as a purveyor of lies.

It is on television, however, that Canadian electioneering really starts to ape America, even though the three main political parties are not allowed to spend more than about £3.5 million apiece on all-campaigning, including advertising. Political parties must also restrict election advertising to the final month of the campaign.

Interest groups, however, can spend what they like. Since big business is so enthusiastic about the Mulroney Government's trade pact with the US, the Prime Minister is getting support from a barrage of sympathetic advertising.

The Liberals produced the first "negative" advertisement of the campaign, depicting the proposed trade pact as a full frontal assault on Canadian sovereignty. Mr Mulroney's Progressive Conservatives hurriedly produced a similar version of their own.

On the hustings, Mr Turner angrily attacks big business — the "Ritz Club" crowd, he calls them — for using television advertising to "buy the election for their boy Brian". Mr Mulroney bluntly accuses his rival of fanning anti-Americanism.

Extremist threat mounts in Italy's ski-slope 'Belfast'

From Roger Boyes, Bolzano

Shortly before nightfall the Carabinieri jeep sputtered to a halt outside the café. It was a typical hostility in the narrow, cobbled streets of Bolzano: surgically scrubbed walls, steep alpine roofs, a balcony and a flower box. Inside there was a muggy warmth, the simian pollution of beer and smoke, the slap of cards hitting the *stamminisch* (the regulars' table), a dozen locals talking in broad Tyrolean dialect.

Two Italian troopers, young southerners, gruffly greeted the landlord in mangled German. The café fell silent.

Another Italian violation. The men in uniform had crossed an invisible frontier between Bolzano, the capital of the Italian province of Upper Adige, and Bozen, the cradle of Italy's German-speaking South Tyrol minority. They are one and the same town but it is sometimes difficult to tell, so sharp is the differentiation between the Italians and the German speakers.

Next week this troubled province goes to the polls. So far this year there have been 21 bomb explosions; 354 since 1956. The last bomb was placed between the pews of a church; more frequently the targets have been Italian housing estates, power stations and electricity pylons.

More violence is expected in the next few days and the Carabinieri have been reinforced. Plain-clothes policemen are checking hotel registers to track the arrival of any Tyrolean separatists from Austria or Germany. The hum of police activity merely bolsters the German speakers' sense of being an occupied country. It is Belfast with ski slopes, and a bit more *Gemutlichkeit* — despite all the bombs, nobody has yet been killed.

Although the elections are merely to elect a regional Parliament and a new president — or *Landesvater* — there is far more at stake. Two-thirds of the South Tyrolese are German speakers, a third Italian. The two groups have been in a state of permanent friction for 70 years.

The South Tyrol was ceded to Italy after the First World War and Mussolini tried to Italianize the province with his customary subtlety. The German-speakers hoped for

power from the Italians, of a Basque-style war, of bombs and their beauty.

Mr Magnago has lost his grip on the extremists. Even his deputy, Mr Alfons Benediktus, does not want a deal that will effectively acknowledge and consolidate the South Tyrol's permanent position as an Italian province. Mr Magnago is having to fight every inch of the way. He hobbles around his fine office — he lost a leg on the Russian front — and despairs.

Nowadays even Miss Klotz seems like a moderate. More and more, the talk of the extremist fringes is of wrestling



● Photographs of Hitler hang next to crucifixes ●

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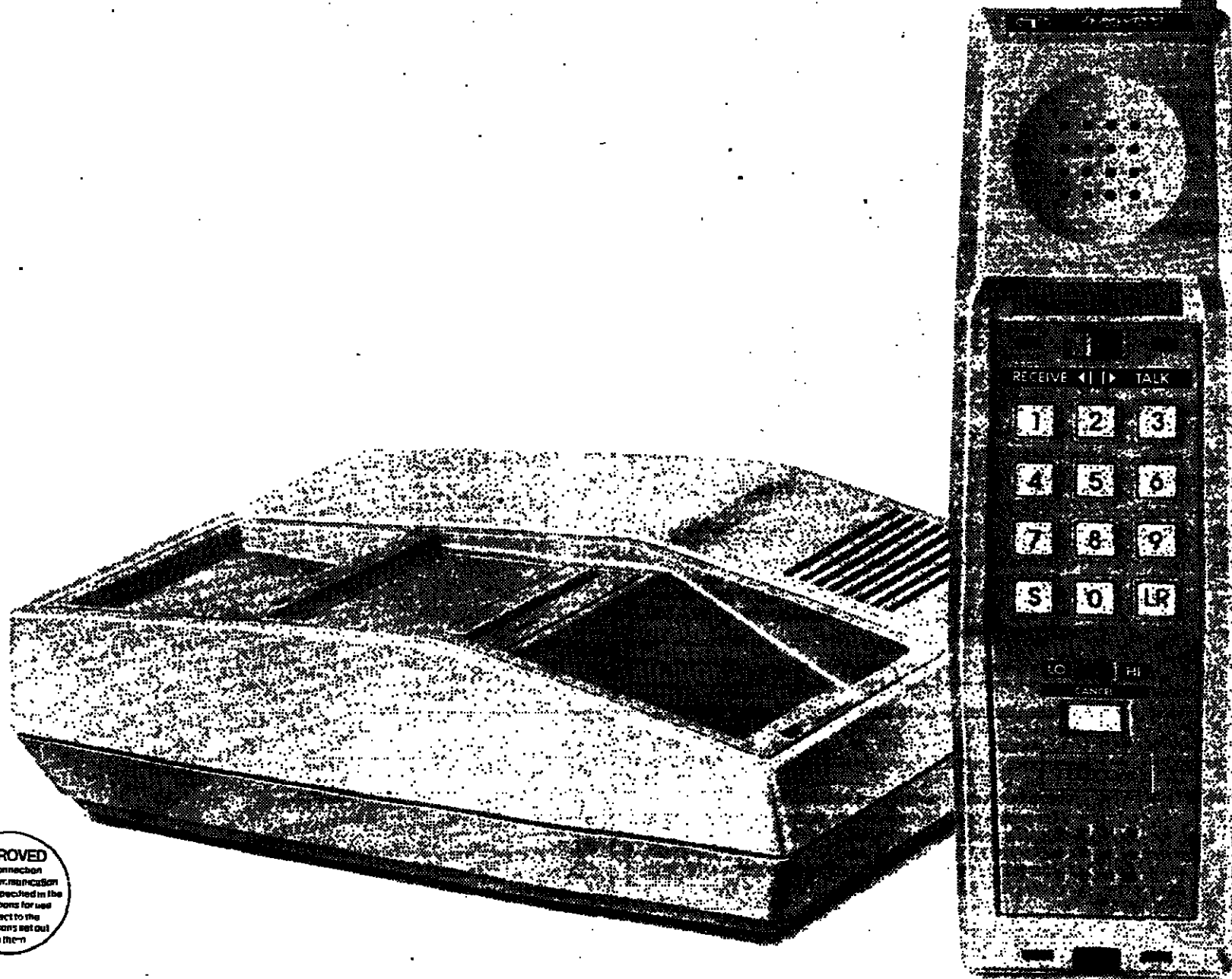
The problem really is that everybody, German and Italian speakers alike, feels part of a persecuted minority. The Italians, who Italianized 35,000 Tyrolean names after 1919, who forced German schools underground between the wars and who still run the police and judiciary, now feel under siege.

The pendulum has swung the other way. The South Tyrol is almost entirely German (or Austrian) in its look and feel; the autonomy measures already granted make the German speakers one of the most pampered minorities in Europe.

The result: the rise and rise of the Italian neo-Fascist party, the MSI, which is against making any more concessions to the German speakers and whose leaders talk self-consciously of blood and fear.

The arrival of a single unified Europe in 1992 may scratch away at the autonomy of the South Tyrol. That, too, is a factor in next week's election.

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Albanian marchers fuel simmering conflict in Kosovo

The situation in the Kosovo region worsened yesterday, increasing the danger of open ethnic conflict. Thousands of Albanians resumed demonstrations in support of their leaders, while in Belgrade, the Serbs were preparing to stage their biggest rally yet in support of fellow Serbs in Kosovo who, they allege, are being forced out of the province by Albanian officials.

Some 15,000 Albanians from all walks of life and all ages marched through the streets of Pristina, the provincial capital, for the second day running in protest against Serbian pressure for the resignation of the Albanian leaders. They also condemned Serbian attempts to change Yugoslavia's Constitution to give Serbia full control over the Kosovo police and judiciary and curtail the Albanians' autonomy.

Reports from the region speak of thousands more Albanians marching from

From Dena Trevisan, Belgrade

other Kosovo towns to the capital to join in the protests which are now assuming nationwide proportions.

On Thursday, when thousands of miners marched from their mine to Pristina to stage a peaceful demonstration while the Kosovo Communist Party leadership was in full session, the Albanian leaders pleaded with the crowds to disperse. They assured them that, while they welcomed their support, such public demonstrations were not helping their cause.

Yesterday morning, when the demonstrations resumed, the Central Committee of the Kosovo region held an emergency meeting and issued an appeal to the Albanians to keep off the streets.

Nevertheless the crowds, which according to eye-witness reports swelled to almost 30,000, shouted their demand — "No resignations!" — challenging the Serbians who insist that the Albanian administration in the region

must be thoroughly purged.

The demonstrations were triggered by rumours that two leading members of the Kosovo party leadership would be forced to resign on Serbian insistence. The Serbian party chiefs accuse them of tolerating Albanian nationalism and failing to protect the minority Serbian population which resents the "Albanization" of Kosovo.

The Serbs are punning for the president of the Kosovo party committee, Miss Kacusa Jassari, and Mr Azem Vlassi, another prominent official. They both resigned their posts yesterday in an attempt to defuse the situation. But Miss Jassari retained her place in the regional party committee, while Mr Vlassi, who stepped down from the regional committee, retained his place on the federal party's Central Committee. Both refused to accept the Serbian accusations insisting that they would not surrender without any evidence to support the Serbian charges.

Finale approaches in Cairo dolphins' dilemma

From Christopher Walker, Cairo



Mr David Taylor, a marine veterinarian from Surrey, yesterday examining one of the two dolphins abandoned by their Swiss owner in a hotel pool in Cairo.

The bizarre diplomatic and legal battle to save two ailing dolphins, Lino and Nemo, abandoned for six months in a hotel pool on the banks of the Nile, moves closer to victory today when blood samples from the graceful mammals will be flown for analysis in a British laboratory.

The sad saga of the two dolphins (cordonned off because of a new tendency to bite onlookers) has already embroiled the British, the Egyptian and French Governments and gripped the imagination of the world.

Television coverage of their final departure from Egypt is likely to exceed that given to this week's proclamation in Algiers of an independent Palestinian state.

"If the blood tests show that they are fit enough to travel, they will be flown on Wednesday to a dolphinarium in the south of France which has a purpose-built hospital pool in which they can hopefully be nursed back to health," said Mr David Taylor, a marine mammal vet from Surrey who examined the two mammals yesterday.

The medical examination, conducted on felt pads by the side of the pool, was a complex exercise in itself. First the two dolphins had to be caught in some Heath Robinson type manoeuvres by Egyptian hotel

staff using five volleyball nets sewn together.

The hotel has no proper equipment for dealing with dolphins — the first ever to perform in the Middle East. It was the first time they had been seen by a marine vet for seven years, which was an appalling reflection on the way they have been treated, explained Mr Taylor, a member of the British-based International Zoo Veterinary Group.

Nemo who had not been eating the rotten fish served to him here, had pneumonia of the right lung and both had scars resulting from bad transportation and poor water.

Mr Taylor said the case proved that the mammals should never be kept in hotel pools, which have insufficient filtration capabilities to make them hygienic.

"Unfortunately, I have a terrible feeling this practice will not end, just move to countries less in the public eye," he added.

Lino and Nemo, caught seven years ago off Guatemala, were abandoned by their Swiss owner, Mr Bruno Lienhardt, on May 31 after his contract with the hotel was cancelled.

"We are still very afraid he might launch a last-minute court action to try and stop the rescue bid," said Mr Taylor.

British diplomatic offensive concentrates on America and Africa

Thatcher plans to revisit US next year

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister is expected to go back to the United States in the first half of next year to build on the success of her first meetings this week with Mr George Bush since the presidential election.

Mrs Thatcher returned home early yesterday from the two-day trip to Washington highly impressed with the way Mr Bush, Mr James Baker, who will be Secretary of State, and their team are handling the changeover of government in the United States.

British sources disclosed that Mrs Thatcher was likely to see Mr Bush again before their next scheduled meeting, the summit of the world's seven leading economic nations in Paris next July next

year. No date has been fixed. But the birth of Mrs Thatcher's first grandchild next spring, to her son Mark and daughter-in-law Diane, who live in Texas, will provide an ideal opportunity to combine a working trip with family business.

Mrs Thatcher remarked after her visit this week on the methodical and determined way Mr Bush was approaching the transition.

Contrary to the poor international press he has been suffering, Mrs Thatcher also formed a favourable impression during her talks on Thursday of Mr Dan Quayle, the Vice-President-elect.

It was the first time they had met for detailed discussions and the man who has been labelled a lame duck Vice-President even before the inauguration in January made several informed contribu-

tions to the wide-ranging discussions, particularly on arms control.

Mrs Thatcher felt that the talks went well. Her support for Mr Bush in his difficulties over the American budget deficit was felt by British sources to have been well timed and to have got the new relationship off to a good start. Mr Bush is understood to have expressed his appreciation after watching Mrs Thatcher's series of breakfast television interviews.

Mrs Thatcher was convinced of his resolve to tackle the budget issue but she is not expecting sudden gestures.

Mr Bush was characterized yesterday by British sources as a long-distance runner who will pace himself rather than be a "one hundred days wonder".

There are certain to be close consultations over East-West

relations. Mrs Thatcher is already believed to be thinking of making another trip to the Soviet Union, although it is unlikely to take place next year.

Mr Gorbachev comes to Britain on December 12-14 and Mrs Thatcher is concerned to maintain regular contacts with the Soviet leader. Moscow is almost certain to be the next Communist capital she visits.

Mrs Thatcher gave a deliberate push during her first talks with Mr Bush to the Middle East peace process because of her feeling that the Reagan Administration delayed too long and missed an opportunity.

Mr Bush left Mrs Thatcher with the firm impression that he wants to raise the Middle East in the order of White House priorities and that he is less sceptical about this week's

move by the Palestine Liberation Organization than Mr George Shultz, the outgoing Secretary of State.

Mrs Thatcher has told her closest colleagues that she will miss Mr Reagan deeply. British sources believe the White House under Mr Bush will be more "homespun and homely" and less glitzy than under the Reagans.

But they expect Mr Bush to be a "hands on" working president and less of a delegator than Mr Reagan. Senior sources likened Mr Reagan to a master mariner steering a ship by a limited number of stars, but always certain which direction he wanted to travel.

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Christian-led military government yesterday welcomed a Palestinian state declared by the PLO chairman, Mr Yassir Arafat (Reuters reports).

Itinerary omits Zambia

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is to exclude Zambia from an expected visit to the southern African frontline states next year.

The move will inevitably be seen as a snub for Dr Kenneth Kaunda — who was recently re-elected as President of Zambia — in retaliation for the treatment that was given to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, by the region's most senior leader about two years ago.

The Prime Minister was furious at the time over the way President Kaunda kept Sir Geoffrey waiting for a lengthy period at State House in Lusaka, and then subjected him to a prolonged and embarrassing harangue over the Government's opposition to sanctions against South

Africa. Sir Geoffrey was on a tour of the states in the run-up to a Commonwealth summit on South Africa.

Mrs Thatcher could go to the region as early as next Easter. The countries she is likely to visit include Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and possibly Mozambique. But Zambia is not on the itinerary. Mrs Thatcher has not taken kindly to the outspoken personal attacks on her by the Zambian President and, according to senior British sources, she did not like the way Sir Geoffrey was treated.

South Africa is not expected to figure in Mrs Thatcher's early travel plans. She will not go there if there is any chance of her visit being seen as bolstering the apartheid regime.

There will have to be further

considerable progress over dismantling apartheid, as well as the release of Nelson Mandela, before she contemplates a visit.

But after an astonishing year in which Mrs Thatcher has visited Africa, Turkey, Australia, Thailand, the Gulf, Spain, Poland, and made many other routine visits abroad, there is no sign of flagging.

She has a visit to Rhodes for a European Council summit and already there is talk of a possible visit to Japan next September for an International Democratic Union conference of Conservative leaders.

Apart from the possible visit to the frontline states, she will also be attending a European summit in Madrid and will go to a world economic summit in Paris.

Racial violence in France

Gangs of skinheads step up attacks in immigrant areas

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

A series of violent incidents involving roving gangs of overtly racist skinheads is alarming the French authorities.

Last weekend, a group of them, tattooed and bomber-jacketed in the authentic British style to which they aspire, descended on the 19th arrondissement of Paris, home of a large immigrant community. A tear-gas grenade was fired into a restaurant, parked cars were badly damaged and two local youths ended up in hospital after a running battle through the streets.

On the same day, almost 600 miles to the south, skinheads went on the rampage through the port quarter of Nice, attacking passersby at random with iron bars, chains, and a sabre. A dozen people were hurt, among them a middle-aged tramp who was kicked in the head as he lay asleep in a doorway.

In Lille last month, Patrick Le Manff, a young drug addict, died instantly when the leader of a skinhead gang, nicknamed Neumone, drove the steel toe of a Doc Marten boot into his temple.

Neumone gave himself up a few days later after a vain attempt to join the Foreign Legion. His story provides an

alarming study in alienation: aged 19, from a bleak suburb of Paris; poorly educated and jobless; three previous arrests for assaults against what he describes as "the enemy" — blacks, North Africans, Jews, punks, rockers.

After Neumone had attacked Le Manff, whom he considered to have been dressed a bit like a punk and to have given him a funny look, his gang (including a girl-friend Neumone) had roamed through Lille full of beer and cheap wine, looking for further victims.

Like most of the estimated 250-300 skinheads in France, largely concentrated in the decaying industrial cities of the north, Neumone learned the nasty trade from his British counterparts.

The aggressive nationalism and viciously racist attitudes adopted by British skinheads are also clearly echoed on this side of the Channel. Favourite groups such as Legion 88 and Brutal Combat sing about getting rid of the Arabs, hanging the terrorists and teaching drug addicts and homosexuals a lesson.

The worst attacks on coloured immigrants took place last spring when some 200 skinheads converged on west-

ern France for a "Nazi rock" concert. After violent scenes in Brest and Rouen, where half a dozen innocent people were badly beaten up, some 30 skinheads — two of them from Britain — appeared in court.

While an element of orthodox fascism motivates some of France's dedicated skinheads, police and sociologists dealing with them regularly offer a more pragmatic judgement. The average French skin is an under-educated product of a working-class home, trapped in a dead-end job or unemployed, sometimes on the run after deserting from military service.

"We're talking about backward adolescents who are easily manipulated," one specialist told the newspaper *France-Soir*. "That's what makes them dangerous. With no real ties and nothing to lose, they are capable of anything."

Meanwhile, there are grounds for concern about the reaction of those who consider themselves to be high on the skinheads' "hit list". In some districts of Paris with large immigrant populations, loosely organized militant groups such as the Zulus have sprung up to defend their communities from the likes of Neumone.

Gun battle leads to university closure

Dhaka — Police yesterday closed a university in Rajshahi, northern Bangladesh, after three students were killed and more than 35 others injured in a gun battle on the campus (Ahmed Fazl writes).

The clash resulted from growing tension between the left-wing Students' League and the Islamic fundamentalist Students' Camp. Witnesses said that fighting had begun after militant fundamentalists marched on the campus.

F16s inquiry

Brussels (Reuters) — The Belgian Defence Ministry has launched an official inquiry into the loss of two American-built F16 fighters in separate crashes, bringing the total losses of this type of aircraft to 19 since 1980.

Deafness toll

Peking (Reuters) — About 240,000 Chinese children have been made deaf by badly prescribed medicines, with tens of thousands more falling victim each year, the official *China Daily* said.

Safety move

Viborg (Reuters) — Danish Christmas revellers who feel amorous after an evening's drinking will be able to get free condoms from taxi drivers on the way home, according to an Aids department official in this western town.

Bomber down

Rapid City, South Dakota (Reuters) — Four crew members parachuted to safety from a B1B bomber before it crashed near Ellsworth Air Force Base in western South Dakota, the US Air Force said.

Mexican first

Mexico City (Reuters) — A Mexican television conglomerate, Televisa SA, is to beam programmes to Europe, the first Latin American TV firm to broadcast to the Old World.

Sleeping more

Tokyo (Reuters) — Emperor Hirohito of Japan, aged 87, who has been critically ill for two months, is sleeping more often and rarely speaks, palace officials said.

Heart attack

Tunis (Reuters) — Mr Talat Yaagoub, the Secretary-General of the Palestine Liberation Front, has died of a heart attack in Algiers.

British Gas plc Interim Results

"A Firm Underlying Base for Continued Success"

British Gas has published its interim report for the six months ended 2 October 1988. In the report, British Gas Chairman Sir Denis Rooke writes:

"In the first half of the financial year the Company typically makes a small profit or loss, the great majority of our income being earned in the second half of the year. The period of six months to 2 October 1988 has seen the £71 million current cost loss attributable to shareholders for the corresponding six months last year increase to £113 million.

"The period has been strongly influenced by external factors. Oil prices have again declined bringing increased competitive pressures in the industrial market and a consequential loss of gas sales. Nevertheless there has been underlying growth in the volume of gas sales to both the domestic and commercial markets.

"The Company has continued to pursue a policy of expanding into new business areas where its established skills can be utilised beneficially and where there are prospects of good returns in the future. The acquisition of Acre Oil in July together with assets being purchased from Tenneco represent further significant steps in the Company's strategy of developing its oil and gas exploration and production business.

"The Company also seeks to maximise the return from land and property which become surplus to operational requirements. In line with this policy the Company has invited British Urban Development Limited to enter into negotiations for a joint venture arrangement, to redevelop the 240 acre holding that was formerly the site of the East Greenwich gas works. This venture will contribute significantly to the redevelopment of this inner city area and to the provision of new housing and employment.

"We were disappointed that despite extensive presentations to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the Company's policies and prices for gas supplied to contract customers, the final report did not accept the market related pricing policy which has operated unchanged for over twenty years through successive governments and privatisation. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report highlights a number of issues on which the Director General of Gas Supply has been asked to agree with us modifications to the present Authorisation issued at the time of privatisation in 1986. We hope that agreement on these changes can be reached speedily so that we can channel our energies again into the normal development of the business. It seems clear that the profitability of the Company will be affected, but there is not expected to be a material impact during the current financial year. It is not possible to quantify the consequences until the changes have been fully defined and their operational effects worked out. Although there will inevitably be a period of uncertainty while these matters are discussed, I believe that the Company's favourable cash flow, strong balance sheet, sound business strategy and committed workforce represent a firm underlying base for continued success in the longer term. I would also reaffirm that it is the intention of the Board that the Company will continue to strive to achieve the best possible results for both customers and shareholders."

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 2.75p net per ordinary share for payment on 28 March 1989 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 20 January 1989.

British Gas plc unaudited results for the six months ended 2 October 1988

Extracts from Group Profit and Loss Account	Six months ended 2 Oct 1988	27 Sept 1987
Turnover	£m	£m
Current cost operating loss	(77)	(8)
Net interest and gearing adjustment	(30)	(23)
Current cost loss before taxation	(107)	(31)
Taxation	(10)	(40)
Current cost loss after taxation	(117)	(71)
Minority shareholders' interest	4	—
Loss attributable to British Gas shareholders	(113)	(71)
Interim dividend	117	104
Loss per ordinary share	(2.7p)	(1.7p)
Interim dividend per ordinary share	2.75p	2.5p

- The unaudited results of the Group for the six months ended 2 October 1988 have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies as set out in the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1988, except that pension costs have been calculated in accordance with SSAP No. 24.
- On an historical cost basis the profit before taxation for the six months ended 2 October 1988 and 27 September 1987 was £28 million and £111 million respectively.
- Taxation for the six months ended 2 October 1988 has been provided on the basis of the estimated effective tax rate for the year ending 31 March 1988.

Copies of the interim report are available from:
British Gas plc
Shareholder Enquiry Office
Gaywood House
29 Great Peter Street
London SW1P 3LW.
Phone: 01-834 2000

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TIMES DIARY SIMON BARNES

This is the column that tackles all the big issues in sport. When is a sport truly a sport? One answer is, when it introduces drugs tests. So let us move full tilt into the era of drugs-testing in croquet. Yes, the strolling, break-building, tactically recondite game of shaven lawns and panamas will bring in drugs testing next summer. Croquet has long been itself as a most serious sport, and loathes any references to flamingoes, hedgehogs, or to the game's unwarranted reputation for viciousness.

I am not sure which drugs would assist performance in croquet. The game is not yet split into weight divisions, so diuretics would not be over-helpful. The men of Budeleigh Salterton and Cheltenham, homes of the great tournaments, must consider the ethics of beta-blockers and herbal teas. But there is some good news here: alcohol is not a proscribed drug. Pass the Pimm's, I'm going for a quadruple peel.

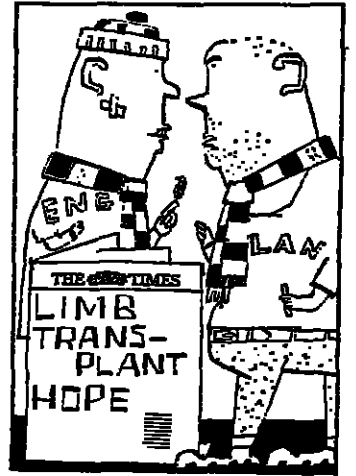
A second answer to the vexed question of when a sport is a sport might be, when it is listed in the Central Council of Physical Recreation's register of national governing bodies. This fascinating document is full of surprises: there between martial arts and modern pentathlon, you find model sports and, (would I lie to you?) metal-detecting. Other treats include dragon boat racing, hover sport, and that old favourite of mine, bicycle polo. It has to be metal-detecting for me already. I can hear them say: "That guy is a player all right. Boy! can he detect that metal."

I keep insisting that non-league football is not like the Football League stuff. Here is proof: Jeff Johnson is sponsoring Altrincham's home match today, an FA Cup first round tie against Lincoln City. Altrincham sacked Johnson as manager last month. Though having said all that about Football Leaguers, I must doff my cap to Bournemouth of the second division. Their manager, Harry Redknapp, is to play in the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in a charity concert. He will play the tubular bells in a performance of the 1812 Overture, and will also take a coaching session for the orchestra's football team.

Ambition is a wonderful thing. It is Paddy Doyle's ambition to complete 1,344,000 press-ups by October 21, 1989. If he does this, he will become a world record holder, the record being for the most press-ups ever performed in a calendar year. This will involve three hours of press-ups every night. He is performing these press-ups after a full day's work at the DHSS. He holds a few records already; he has performed 4,000 press-ups with a 52lb metal weight on his back, 3,000 sit-ups with a 50lb weight strapped to his chest, and he has run a full marathon with 44lb on his back. There is something magnificent about all this.

An Argentine pensioner aged 75 and called Moises Schottlander, is threatening to sue the Argentine Football Association. He claims he has patented the idea of the penalty shoot-out for league games, which is now adopted in Argentina, and also in Yugoslavia. Schottlander wrote to the international governing body, FIFA, with exactly this suggestion in 1985. He received a reply that stated briefly: "We do not believe many people will accept your proposal." Now they have. Schottlander is talking about legal action, and the Argentine FA is retorting that any court would throw Schottlander's claim to the four winds.

BARRY FANTONI



A legend was scotched this week. Sir Donald Bradman finally put to rest the story that he was out second ball in his last Test match because he was "battering with tears in his eyes". But in Birmingham, they have never believed the story anyway. They always knew that Eric Hollies did him. Hollies (who no longer with us) claimed as much in his book, *I'll Spin You a Tale*. He had bowled to Bradman for Warwickshire a fortnight before the famous wicket. He believed that Bradman was unable to spot his googly. He became convinced when Australia were batting in their second innings, needing only a few runs. Bradman came in out of turn: Hollies leapt to the conclusion that Bradman wanted to look at his enigmatic skills. Accordingly, he did not bowl the googly to him at all. He bowled it up for the Test. Bradman came out to bat in the Test, and Hollies was the bowler. Hollies reasoned that Bradman would expect a googly first ball, so he bowled a conventional ball instead. The second ball was the googly. It beat the outside edge, spun back and hit the wicket, and a myth of tears was born.

This must be the most peculiar way anyone has ever won a gold medal. This week, Martelle Goitschel received a gold medal for winning the women's downhill skiing event at the world championships of 1966. The medal was presented 22 years ago to Erika Schinegger, who subsequently admitted that he was then a man. He is now Erik Schinegger. He presented the medal to Goitschel himself, and said: "I won the world championship as a woman, but without even knowing it myself. I was a man. That is why the gold medal belongs to you and not me."

A Scottish Tory MP, Allan Stewart, wrote in *The Scotsman* this week: "Devolution is now an issue of the past. The choice is becoming more stark. It is Independence or the Union. The Tory party knows where it stands. The SNP knows where it stands. The Labour movement in Scotland does not."

Such is the resentment of the present government's policies north of the border that popular support for full Scottish independence is running at its highest level ever. Successive MORI polls have shown it rising steadily from 15 per cent in 1979 to 35 per cent last month and 41 per cent in Govan.

At the behest of Jim Sillars, winner of last week's dramatic by-election in Govan, the SNP has espoused what appears to be a highly sensible new proposition — that of Scottish independence in Europe. This would involve Scotland becoming an independent member of the EEC akin to countries such as Denmark, Luxembourg and Spain.

Scotland would be on the Council of Ministers, have more MEPs, and a qualified power of veto over unpopular policies. The existence of the Single European Market would prevent

Martin Fletcher analyses the SNP's new policy of separatism in Europe

Dreams of independence

barriers being erected against Scottish industry and business. Sillars claims that the idea "destroys at a stroke the separatist gibe about breaking away, disrupting relations, going off into isolation" which has gravely damaged the SNP in the past. The European dimension makes the case for Scottish independence "intellectually and politically unassailable", he says.

It also takes account of changed circumstances, which SNP members say Labour's policy of devolution does not. They argue that real power now increasingly resides in Brussels. A devolved Scottish Assembly would thus be two stages removed from the main power base. Moreover, it would be represented there by a government with which it had diminished influence.

The SNP believes that in Scotland the next election will be

fought on the issue. The mandate it seeks is a majority of Scotland's 72 MPs in favour backed by "the substantial will of the Scottish people". Sillars has left open the possibility of the SNP not fighting Labour MPs who stand on an Independence in Europe platform.

Were the government of the day to recognize that mandate, a provisional Scottish government in Edinburgh would begin simultaneous negotiations with London and Brussels on its new status within the EEC. The final package would be put to the Scottish people in a referendum.

Sillars refuses to discuss the likelihood that Westminster would not recognize the mandate. Its position would be "untenable", he says. Margaret Ewing, the SNP's parliamentary leader, believes Scottish MPs would simply declare UDI and open their own negotiations with

an EEC which she is confident would recognize their right to do so.

The Govan result has given the SNP a momentum which a disunited and shell-shocked Scottish Labour party may find hard to stop. Though Neil Kinnock has ruled out panic measures in the wake of Govan, a significant number of his Scottish MPs have called for more robust forms of opposition. At least a dozen are against the party's policy of opposing the community charge or poll tax within the law. There are now signs of support for the Independence in Europe idea.

Dunfermline MP Dick Douglas, writing in *The Aberdeen Press and Journal*, warned that the Single European Market would suck industry and economic power into the south of England. "We must ask ourselves whether an independent

Scotland might not do better on its own within a European grouping."

The former Scottish Labour Party chairman, John Pollock, warned in *The Scotsman* this week that in offering Brussels as an alternative to Westminster the SNP "trumps Labour's strongest card" and admitted that he finds the case for direct Scottish representation in the EEC "highly desirable".

Sillars will now have a platform at Westminster which he intends to exploit to the hilt. There is also the prospect of a cross-party Scottish Constitutional Assembly. The SNP will press for its members to be elected and for all constitutional options to be put to the people. It thus hopes to secure an early mandate for independence in Europe.

It is heady stuff, but it ignores

the fact that Scotland is still overwhelmingly Labour, and that the Scots face some very hard realities at the next general election. The SNP would be asking their people to elect a party whose leading members and broader policies are largely unknown quantities.

The SNP has moved significantly to the left since the 1970s. It would want to take Scotland out of Nato and close American nuclear submarine bases. Under the Single European Market companies opposed to SNP policies could move to England. Scotland's relatively high public expenditure would end.

Yesterday Leon Brittan, European Commissioner in Woking, said that if it could really be proved that a majority of Scots seriously wanted Scotland to go its own way within the EC, then "Britain's duty would be clear". However he thought that Scotland was "millions of votes" from wanting to be independent.

"Scotland Free by '93" was a slogan coined by Sillars during the Govan campaign. Come the crunch, the safety of the Union may appear far more attractive to the Scots, notwithstanding their grievances.

Bernard Richards

Music's soft sell-out

In his great "Song for Saint Cecilia's Day" John Dryden says: "What Passion cannot Music raise and quell?" Advertisers have taken a leaf from his book and added to the erotic passions the passion to buy. Industry and manufacture has relentlessly pillaged classical music to sell its products. As the festival of the patron saint of music comes round again on Tuesday it is an opportune time to mourn the modern desecration of classical music.

A typical example is an advertisement for British Airways which shows passengers waiting through inner space, to the haunting chorus from Verdi's *Nabucco*: "Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate." ("Go, oh thought, on golden wings"). In its proper context the music is the lament sung by the Israelites in Babylonian captivity, influenced by the biblical passage: "By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept." The libretto continues: "o mia patria si bella e perduta, / o membranza si cara e fatal." ("Oh my country so beautiful and lost, / Oh remembrance so dear and fatal.") These were the lines in the libretto which persuaded the reluctant Verdi to begin composition.

The opera was written at the time of the Risorgimento, Italy's struggle for independence and unity, with the occupying Austrians in Milan as the equivalent of the Babylonians. This chorus has long been regarded as the country's unofficial national anthem; it is a memory of loss and a dream of beauty in dire and drab circumstances. Surely British Airways could not be meaning to suggest all this? And if they are it is as much an advertisement against flight as for it. More likely the anger and irritation engendered by its advertising will probably be just as offensive.

And there is another danger: that the new associations thrown up by the commercial will thereafter loom large whenever the music is heard again, and instead of thinking of heroic Israelites one will think of brittle and manicured stewardesses with their little plastic trays of unappetising food. Music is a curious



some chocolate bar and drowning out *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* with banal chatter. British Telecom will ultimately have to answer to Schumann's ghost for imposing non-stop "voice-over" onto his *Kinderstimmen* Opus 15, "Von fremden Ländern und Menschen". Even Beethoven's *Eroica* is exploited!

Some argue that one should be grateful that great music is getting a free airing in prime time and refreshing parts of the psyche that might otherwise remain perpetually parched and unwatered by *bet canto*. I remain unconvinced. Elgar's hauntingly beautiful cello concerto makes a brief appearance in a commercial for a car, just before the driver, whose wife probably regards him as an upright citizen, takes on an irresponsible alien persona and goes a-whining after raucous pop music and illegal speeds. It is a testimony to the inefficiency of the advert that I

cannot remember which of the jelly-moulded products was being promoted in this instance. Will that snatch of Elgar do anyone any good?

British Steel has also stolen some bars of Elgar (I hesitate to say "borrowed", since once ruined by misuse they can never be returned), but I mind that slightly less, since at least it is the public and extrovert side of his oeuvre that is pillaged on this occasion, rather than the soulful and introspective.

Even when the music has been severely modernized and rearranged a residual contact with high culture still remains. Selfish is attempting to sell itself as a kind of salubrious resort, not only by offering sticks of core-shaped rock lettered all through, but by adopting a nauseatingly twee, neo-romantic version of Handel's Fifth Suite in E for harpsichord as a kind of audible logo. My main concern is classical

music, since this is the music I value and revere, but an equally baneful procedure occurs with semi-classical and pop music too. Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* is currently promoting Galaxy chocolate bars. There was a perfectly nice song once, "I'd like to teach the world to sing", but it was kidnapped by Coca-Cola and used to spread the product round the world as "I'd like to buy the world a Coke". The vendors hoped that some residue of the global philanthropy of the original might remain, and that they could disguise their engagement in cultural and commercial imperialism of the crassest kind.

Even hymns, which are somewhere between classical music and pop, are not immune. "What a friend we have in Jesus" has received a new lease of half-life in a Volkswagen advert. Is nothing sacred? Surely there should be a law against it? A law stronger than a copyright law.

What is happening in these examples is an attempt to infuse commodities with the spiritual values of the arts. In the Western world commodities are the physical elements in life which are functional and consumed. They are closely implicated in the world of exchange and purchase, the world of financial values. The more rational one is the more one is able to see that one can get by with a minimum of them. But the arts are another matter: they address deeper emotional needs. Yes, we could do without the arts, but if we were without them we should be completely different people.

This attempted spiritualizing of commodities is with us all the time, but it reaches a deafening crescendo at Christmas, as relentless carols blast their way through the tinsel and force the most pious of mortals to wonder whether the whole thing might not be humbug, baby and all.

We talk much of rights in our time, not only for human beings, but animals and, in some philosophical circles, plants. Isn't it time that in our eager exercise to distribute rights we should accord some to the dead, and say that they have rights — among others the right not to have their work tampered with, distorted and presented in inappropriate contexts? (This would not be confined to music of course). If advertisers are desperate for a touch of class for their products they should employ living composers to produce pastiches (it would be a form of patronage), or persuade those mediums who claim that they are dictated to nightly by the spirits of dead composers to concoct something appropriate. The genuine article could then remain more or less inviolate.

True lovers of music are more likely to feel that anger and irritation are the passions raised by the modern desecration of classical music rather than the passion to buy and that the whole exercise is resoundingly counter-productive.

The author is a fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford.

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY

Monkey business: the rules

Washington
The rumours toward the end of the recent presidential campaign about a sex scandal involving George Bush got far more press attention in Britain than in the United States. Indeed in reporting that the rumours had sent the American stock market down 40 points (equal to some \$50 billion) the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* would only characterize them as "damaging," leaving the rest to readers' imaginations.

It was very clear the American press was not eager to pursue this story. In fact, when the rumours turned out to be untrue, or at least unprovable, the gale-force winds swept the country as thousands of journalists exhaled with relief. Why?

After Gary Hart's presidential hopes capsize on the *Monkey Business* (the boat where he met Donna Rice) a year and a half ago, I predicted that this would be the beginning of a new era of sexual insecurity for American politicians.

I thought that sexual exposés would become the bread and butter of Pulitzer-hungry investigative reporters. But it hasn't happened. Instead, the unwritten rules about exploring and reporting private misbehaviour by politicians are, if anything, more stringent than they were before Donna Rice sailed into American folklore.

The explanation is that, just as Watergate raised the standard for political scandal, Gary Hart raised the standard for sexual scandal.

In the months before Richard Nixon's resignation, there was

much talk of the need for a "smoking gun" — as if the mass of circumstantial evidence wasn't damning enough. Unfortunately, a smoking gun was found — the self-incriminating tapes and every subsequent political scandal has had to meet the "smoking gun" standard of evidence. This saved President Reagan from the worst ravages of Iran-Contra, for example. Similarly, Hart's escapee set a standard that few potential sex scandals can aspire to.

The post-Hart rules are: Rule one, the hanky-panky must be ongoing. If it has ended, even recently, it falls off the edge of "relevance."

Rule two, it must relate to some previously raised issue regarding the politician in question. Hart was already alleged to be a womanizer; this was considered a flaw in his character; the monkey business illuminated that flaw. If a politician not previously regarded as a womanizer was discovered to be womanizing, that would be of dubious relevance.

Rule three, the philandering politician must virtually be caught in the act. This is the sexual equivalent of the Watergate smoking gun standard. Reporters from the *Miami Herald* saw Hart and Fried enter his townhouse late in the evening and leave it the next day. You're allowed to assume that when a middle-aged presidential candidate and an attractive model spend the night alone in a townhouse, they weren't reading the Congressional Record (or at least they weren't only reading the Congressional Record), but

that's about all you're allowed to assume without evidence. The likelihood of meeting this high evidentiary standard very often is quite small.

Rule four, the victim must actually invite the fatal scrutiny. Gary Hart told the *New York Times*, "Follow me around, I don't care... If anybody wants to put a tail on me, go ahead. They'd be very bored." The fact that this amazing invitation was published after the *Miami Herald* boys had instituted their body watch is mere irony. Hart, defenders of journalistic dignity could insist, "asked for it". Since most politicians are sane enough not to ask even the *New York Times* to follow them around if they're planning to do something it wouldn't approve of, the Hart precedent is a substantial deterrent to journalistic enterprise in this area.

Despite the risk of excess, more journalistic enterprise in pursuing monkey business would be a healthy development, for two reasons.

First, because politicians put their "private lives" legitimately at issue when they bring their families into the campaign, a virtually universal practice that was especially egregious this year. In doing so they are making a statement about themselves that ought to be exposed if false. George Bush didn't say, "Follow me around." But raising to a banner at a campaign rally that contained a suggestive innuendo about Ted Kennedy, Bush did say that in contrast to Senator Kennedy he — Bush — could be found at home with his wife. Michael Dukakis, for his part,

desperate to project warmth, had his wife as much as telling reporters he was good in bed.

Second, politicians' monkey business should be reported because it's up to the voters, not journalists, to decide what's relevant. Denying voters this information, for fear they will give it more weight than it deserves, is patronizing and elitist.

As it happens, I think a politician's private life — be it adulterous or dotingly familial — is irrelevant to his or her qualifications for public office. But most voters don't share this view, and few politicians are willing to admit sharing it either. That's why the voters not only deserve to have this information — they need to have their noses rubbed in it.

The more people are exposed to the gap between politicians' public and private selves, the sooner a majority will come around to my point of view, and the sooner we'll have politicians with the guts to say that private behaviour is of no public concern after all.

Journalists of generally libertarian, if not actually libertine, disposition, who don't like the idea of feeding victims to a ravenous puritanism, have got it backwards. Hypocrisy and deception are the pillars of puritanism, now as always.

A politician who must fear exposure of his secret vice will temper his calls for state-enforced public virtue. A citizenry reminded regularly that its leaders are made of flesh is likely to be more tolerant of fleshly weakness, not less so.

NOV 19 ON THIS DAY 1917

Rodin made a rich bequest to the French nation of his sculpture. During the First World War he gave 20 works to Britain as a token of his admiration for our soldiers.

AUGUSTE RODIN HIS SCULPTURE AND ITS AIMS

François Auguste Rodin, whose death we announce on another page, was born on November 12, 1840, in Paris. The son of a clerk in a Government office, Rodin had no ambition to be an artist in his childhood. Yet when he left school at the age of 14 he went to a free drawing school, since known as the Ecole des Arts Décoratifs, where Léon Cognat, a Boileau, the greatest teacher of the age, was one of the masters. There Rodin made friends with Dalou and Legros, and learned to draw from memory; but still he showed no great precocity. He attempted three times in vain to gain admittance to the Ecole des Beaux Arts; but had the luck to obtain some teaching from Barye, then the best sculptor in France. While still a boy he became assistant to a sculptor of architectural ornament.

While still in his employment he married, at the age of 23, and soon afterwards produced his first great work, "The man with the Broken Nose." It was rejected by the Salon, though there was nothing strange about it except its excellence. In the same year he became assistant to Carrier-Belleuse, a fashionable sculptor, in whose employment he acquired great facility and dexterity. In 1870 he went with Carrier-Belleuse to Brussels, and soon

afterwards entered into partnership with a Belgian sculptor, Van Rensbourg, with whom he executed some of the sculpture on the Brussels Bourse. At this period he made a careful study of Gothic sculpture and architecture, which had a profound influence upon all his later work. In 1875 he went to Italy to study Michelangelo and Donatello.

In 1880 Rodin received the commission for the "Gate of Hell" for the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, which occupied him for a great part of the rest of his life and supplied him with motives for several other great works, as, for instance, for the "Thinker" now outside the Pantheon, for the "Adam" or "Creation of Man", for the "Eve", and for the "Eternal Spring", a group suggested by the "Paolo and Francesca" of the Gate.

In the "Eternal Spring" and in the "Eve", first exhibited in 1888, Rodin produced works of pure beauty by the representation of passionate action. The beauty of these works is abstract; and there is the same abstract beauty, in spite of the horror of the subject, in the Ugolino group of the "Gate of Hell."

In 1886 Rodin received the commission for the monument to the Burgesses of Calais, all the figures of which were exhibited in plaster in 1889. In this work he carried his principle of representative action to an extreme. The burgesses are starting to give themselves up to the English and Rodin's one aim is to express their emotion in gesture. Rodin's group seems to lack symmetry, but as drama it has no equal in modern sculpture. A replica of it is now being placed in Victoria Tower Gardens.

He has often been called, even by those who admire him, an incomplete artist, but he could conceive more clearly and execute more precisely than any other modern sculptor.

BELIEVERS



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THE BALTIC CHALLENGE

Estonia, one of the Baltic republics of the Soviet Union, this week declared itself a "sovereign" state, with the right to run its own affairs, decide its own laws and veto Soviet legislation. Another Baltic republic, Lithuania, rejected so drastic a pronouncement, having heard the Kremlin's condemnation of Estonia. The third republic, Latvia, has yet to decide.

Estonia's declaration, which was coupled with a request that the relationship of the republic with Moscow should be governed by treaty, presents the Soviet leadership with a challenge it would have had to confront eventually. But it has come sooner, and in a more acute form, than either side might have expected.

It was only six months ago that the Baltic republics were permitted, even encouraged, to form so-called "people's fronts". Whether the original purpose of these organizations was to provide a safe outlet for nationalist sentiment or to broaden the base of support for reform by giving moderate non-Communists a voice is less important than the result.

The people's fronts swiftly came to provide a forum for popular nationalist and intellectual opinion. Estonians, Lithuanians and Latvians united with local government and some Communist Party officials to campaign for more independence from Moscow. So closely did the Estonian People's Front, in particular, come to be identified with Estonian nationalism that Russians living in the republic (perhaps at Moscow's instigation) formed their own organization to protect their interests.

That the Supreme Soviet of Estonia has now formally declared its republic "sovereign" illustrates how far the existing establishment has gone along with the policies of the people's fronts or felt it expedient to do so. Mr Gorbachev, who pledged himself in June to "democratization", a measure of economic decentralization, and more autonomy for minority nationalities and republics within the Soviet "federation", is left with a conundrum largely of his own making.

His proposals for changes in the Soviet Union's political structure gave the people of the Baltic States, in particular, hope of greater independence from Moscow in every area of life. Over the summer, they waved their own national flags and sang their own national

anthems with impunity. They read for the first time the controversial codicil to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact which had facilitated their absorption into the Soviet Union. They were promised that their republics would be treated as economic self-accounting units.

When the proposed changes in the Soviet Constitution were published, however, many of their hopes were disappointed. Their new freedom would be strictly circumscribed. Any constitutional changes proposed by the republics for themselves could be rescinded by Moscow as contrary to the Soviet Constitution — and Moscow reserved the right to decide what was unconstitutional. Economic policy had to meet central needs; there would be no constitutional guarantees for private enterprise.

Moreover, the right of republics to secede from the Soviet Union — a right which had long been only theoretical — was now to be removed altogether. At the very time the Soviet leadership was declaring its intention of bringing the letter of the law more into line with practice, the most significant clauses were being erased. It was small wonder that the people of the Baltic republics called "foul" and demanded a proper debate on the changes.

By rejecting the constitutional amendments, as it did this week, the Supreme Soviet of Estonia has demonstrated that its aspirations go far beyond what Moscow is (and probably will be) prepared to give. The right of veto over central decisions which it has demanded strikes at the heart of Moscow's overlordship. It falls short of calling for the right to secede, but only just. Yet if regional and republican autonomy is to mean anything, the right of veto must exist — and not only in print.

The day after Estonia's declaration of "sovereignty", Moscow called the republic's President, Mr Arnold Ruutel, to the Kremlin. The history of local leaders thus summoned does not augur well for his political future. Those who have trodden that path before him include Mr Alexander Dubcek, the former Mongolian leader, Tseedenbal, and the former Afghan leader, Mr Babrak Karmal. The fate of Mr Ruutel, and of Baltic aspirations, will show how far Mr Gorbachev's concept of Soviet federalism really differs from that of his predecessors.

ON THE RIGHT TRACKS

The Cabinet's Defence and Overseas Policy Committee will next week consider one of the most difficult defence decisions of the decade. It involves the choice of a new tank for the Army and has already divided the defence establishment with an efficiency which the MoD must envy.

The contenders for the contract may be new, but the arguments have a familiar ring about them. On the one hand is the British Challenger-2, a derivative of the existing Challenger-1. On the other is the General Dynamics Abrams, which Americans say is the best tank in the world.

The records suggest that the Americans may be right. Since the US Army brought it into service seven years ago it has won most Nato gunnery competitions. Its smooth-bore German gun is already in service with three Allied armies in Europe and its turbine engine gives it an admirable turn of speed — though at a cost.

Challenger-2 will be as well armoured as the Abrams and will have an efficient, if less flashy, diesel engine. But there are doubts about its rifle-barrelled gun, which would make the British Army almost unique in not moving towards the harder-hitting smooth-bore type.

In addition, Challenger-2 remains only half-proven. Challenger-1, which has already replaced nearly half of the Army's old Chieftains, has a dismal record of marksmanship. Challenger-2 will have a new fire-control system which should correct this failing, but the image it has acquired is unfortunate.

The question is whether Britain can afford to buy its tanks abroad. No doubt if the Abrams were chosen, it would be built here under licence — and General Dynamics have spoken of offset agreements. In price there is little between them.

But this country would stand no chance of

winning export orders, particularly in the Middle East where the potential is enormous. Iran, Jordan, Oman, and Kuwait already have British tanks in service and Vickers have named Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Canada, and Pakistan as possible markets for the next generation. Vickers have been successful in selling armour to Third World countries which do not require the sophistication of more expensive models. But their chances of exporting equipment which had been rejected by the Ministry of Defence would be minimal.

A decision against Vickers would probably mean the end of tank design in Britain, making this the only major country in the world without its own indigenous main battle tank. In terms of prestige, foreign exchange, and strategic interests this sounds like a poor option for the Government. There is an attractive argument in favour of Nato powers collaborating to build their next new tank together. But to buy Abrams would mean selling out completely.

Recent history has not been on Vickers' side. Through no fault of its own, the last two British tanks have been imperfect. They have been excellent in parts, but have fallen below operational requirements in others. Moreover, other equipment decisions, notably the Nimrod early-warning aircraft and the SP70 self-propelled gun, have proved expensive failures, and been scrapped. Not surprisingly, the Prime Minister himself is said to be wary of further disasters.

But this should not be an argument for buying abroad. It is an argument for ensuring that British industry gets it right. If the decision has to be further delayed, that would be a small price to pay in the overall strategic and industrial interests of this country. The defence manufacturing industry in Britain cannot afford another defeat.

WOMEN PRIESTS AND BELIEVERS

If the Ordination of Women Measure is eventually passed by the General Synod of the Church of England in the early 1990s the Church will not suffer serious schism. This is the most significant conclusion that can be drawn from the survey of opinion among ordinary church-goers which was conducted by the MGRJ organization for *The Times* and published earlier this week.

The survey was not intended to influence the outcome of the controversy, but it could do so in one respect. The threat of schism has deterred a substantial minority of Anglicans from openly supporting the ordination of women, even if they support it in principle. This reservation in the pews is faithfully represented also on the synodical benches at Church House. It is shown to be groundless.

The survey uncovers a strong sense of loyalty that overrides lesser considerations. It suggests that even the majority of those who oppose women priests do not regard the issue as an acid test of the Church of England's credibility. Many say they would attend their own parish church as regularly as ever, even if their vicar was a woman. Commitment to the Church in principle clearly transcends disapproval of what the Church might do in this (or probably almost any other) matter.

That is important and reassuring information for the leaders of the Church. A breakaway "Continuing Church of England" would, on this evidence, be a lean thing. And the idea of a church divided geographically into those dioceses or parishes which have women priests and those which do not is unpopular even among those for the sake of whose consciences such "no-go" areas have been proposed.

An opinion poll cannot, of course, settle the theological controversy, though there is a long

Christian tradition that the *sensus fidelium* is a pointer to true doctrine. But in this ecumenical age Anglicans cannot ignore the fact that they constitute only a minority of world Christianity, and it is certainly not yet possible to speak of the general consent of all the Christian faithful to the ordination of women.

The Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches still throw their weight, at least officially, on the other side of the argument. This is well acknowledged in the responses to the survey. Anglicans know that they are part of something wider, and they recognize that this imposes certain responsibilities on them. Among those who want both closer links with Rome and women priests — assuming they cannot in fact have both — opinion divides equally as to which is the more important.

The survey shows that some of the factors behind the opposition to women priests in the Church have little to do with doctrine, or ecumenical considerations, or even the fear of a split in the Church of England. They would include anti-female prejudice — the same prejudice that has resisted the advancement of women in secular spheres. This does not of itself discredit the more respectable arguments, but it places them in questionable company.

This point aside, the survey shows the Church of England generally in a good light. Its congregations show maturity, independence of mind, careful thought, and deep commitment. Those characteristics could well influence the eventual outcome of the debate. Some have argued that, while there might be no theological objection to the ordination of women, the Church was not ready for it because it could not handle the change. The survey strongly suggests that it could.

Case for a Middle East Community

From Sir John Barnes

Sir, The Palestine National Council has declared a new state (report, November 14) but cannot yet bring it into being. By apparently accepting UN Resolution 242 it has implied *de facto* recognition of Israel, but has not made this explicit *de jure*. It has not formally renounced the use of force to achieve its ends nor abrogated its covenant dedicated to the destruction of Israel. But it may be moving that way.

Israel is not prepared to accept a sovereign state in the present administered territories on this basis. But many Israelis recognise that the longer they retain those territories, the greater the risk of the Jewish population becoming a minority. Only a few Israelis support the inhuman policy of expelling the inhabitants of the territories from their homes, even with monetary compensation. Meanwhile, the *intifada* uprising continues, at no small cost to Israel in resources and reputation.

So there is some progress and reason to hope for more. But the impasse remains, with each party wary of further concessions. How to resolve it? Certainly not by more armed conflict.

Surely this is a chance to bypass the bilateral confrontation by a multilateral solution. A Middle Eastern Community, on the European model, to which all its members surrendered a measure of sovereignty, could allay many current fears. It should not consist only of Israel and something called Palestine, but would need to embrace Jordan, possibly Egypt, and perhaps even Lebanon. It

would be bound together by mutual economic interests, with each member having something to offer.

It would require to be underpinned by security guarantees, but security in the Middle East depends not so much on lines drawn on maps as on the attitude of peoples on each side of those lines. All the peoples concerned have a common interest in resisting the spread of extreme Islamic fundamentalism.

Such an approach could also apply to Jerusalem. Jerusalem would remain undivided and would remain the capital of Israel. But the city could also be accepted as the capital of Palestine and, more importantly, the administrative capital of the Middle Eastern Community, the Brussels of the Middle East.

This is not a blueprint for a peace treaty, which would involve much negotiation. But it could offer a beacon light at the end of the tunnel.

Moreover, it might be a formula to enlist the support of Russia, which has itself no incentive to welcome Islamic fundamentalism, within or outside its borders. Surely, too, it is better to have Russia committed to the peace process from the inside, rather than excluded and possibly hostile. Is this not something which could be explored with President Gorbachev on his forthcoming visits to New York and London?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BARNES,
Hampton Lodge,
Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

European union in wider context

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, In discussing the relationship of the Western European Union to the North Atlantic Alliance (your leading article of November 15), it is important to remember their distinct origins.

Nato came into being as a defensive organisation designed to protect the free countries of North America and Europe against the threat of Soviet aggression. The Western European Union grew out of the longer-term policy of building a European Union. It was preceded by Sir Winston Churchill's proposal at Strasbourg in 1950 for a European Army and of M Plevin's subsequent proposal for a European Defence Community.

The French Parliament declined to agree to German rearmament unless Britain was also directly associated with the defence of central Europe. It was the British commitment to station land and air forces in Germany on a permanent basis that led to the formation of the WEU.

Nato was thus regarded by all concerned as a box to keep the Soviets out of Europe. Western European Union was to be a box to keep the Germans in.

WEU had, as its immediate objective, the rearmament of West Germany. It serves a valuable

purpose, today, as an additional link between France and the Atlantic Alliance. Far from arousing suspicions in the United States it should, if properly developed, help to convince American opinion that their European allies are making a full contribution to the common defence.

But WEU should have a purpose beyond this immediate requirement. The members of the European Community are putting together vast economic and financial interests. These would need to be protected and promoted, even if the threat of Soviet aggression should eventually disappear.

The purpose of foreign and defence policies is to promote and protect the interests of those concerned. As European union develops, so it will require corresponding foreign policy and defence institutions.

As Europe is unlikely to develop along federal lines, Western European Union — which has an essentially inter-governmental constitution — would seem a natural vehicle for these purposes. It should, therefore, serve both as a second pillar of the Atlantic Alliance and as a foundation for the long-term security of the developing European union.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1.

Reading and writing

From Mrs Maria Langdale

Sir, The present debate on the teaching of basic English grammar in our schools (reports, November 14 and 15) needs to take account of the great help a knowledge of basic grammar is in the learning of a foreign language.

I am Italian by birth and was educated in Italy. The main European languages offered present which leave with sophisticated problems of grammar and syntax. These can be more easily overcome with a sound knowledge of the mother tongue.

Yours faithfully,
MARIA LANGDALE,
31 Compton Road, N1,
November 15.

From Mr G. R. Perkin

Sir, Thirty-five years ago my son said: "I'm never going to read anyone else but Enid Blyton." Today, as a BA, he is head of English at his school, is an avid reader and has hundreds of books, including most of the classics.

Better surely to encourage children to read even those books which have been dismissed by the progressives as valueless — they could lead, and have led, to better things.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. PERKIN,
10 St Raphael Road,
West Worthing, Sussex.

From Mr W. D. Haden

Sir, In 1935 I was appointed English master at a public school. My rivals for the appointment shared my interest in our literature, above all our poetry; but I could offer English grammar.

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment (Housing and Inner Cities)

Sir, I was disappointed that on the very day the House of Lords unanimously welcomed the Government's decision to give tenants a vote on whether their estate is transferred to a Housing Action Trust (HAT), Debra Isaac (Focus on Inner City Enterprise, November 14) should tuck that fact away in the bowels of a report of a meeting I attended with South-west tenants a month ago.

The Government's decision to hold ballots stems from our concern that individual tenants are not getting a clear picture about HATs. Your article demonstrates this only too well by its references to five-fold rent increases with eviction for those in rent arrears.

The facts are that nearly £200 million is available over the next three years for HATs. Rents will be frozen until improvements have been carried out and will then increase in line with council rents.

Tenants will have more choice about the future ownership and management of their homes than they have ever had before.

Their landlords, who might be housing associations, will have to be approved by the Housing Corporation: to be committed to the long-term provision of housing for rent; and to subscribe to the principles of the Corporation's "tenants' guarantee".

Tenants will also be able to opt

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

German amends for Nazi crimes

From Mrs Ruth Robinson

Sir, Following recent commemorations in West Germany of the Kristallnacht pogroms of November, 1938, I would like to describe my own accidental involvement with these events, which might interest you.

Early this year I received a letter from Herr Uwe Hartmann, the Bürgermeister of Herleshausen, a large village close to the border of the German Democratic Republic. He and his deputy, Herr Helmut Schmidt, an amateur local historian, had approached Dr Erich Schwerdtfeger, a history don in Dortmund University, with a view to publishing a history of the no-longer-existing Jewish communities of Herleshausen and the smaller village of Nesselroden.

The Jewish families, many of whom had lived in these villages since the 16th century, had mostly perished in the Holocaust after being deported by the villagers. I had lived there with my grandparents for 10 years as my father, returning from the First World War, decided to move to a different part of Germany. My grandfather was a farmer and a horse and cattle dealer.

Herr Hartmann enclosed some old photographs, asking me if I could identify certain people and requesting facts as to the fate of members of my family. (I'm the only survivor — all 14 members of my family, ranging from a 78-year-old grandmother to a seven-year-old nephew, were killed in different camps.)

At first I was wary, but eventually I decided to go to Herleshausen and see for myself. I was surprised, but very pleased, to discover that both Herr Hartmann and Herr Schmidt (both born after

the war), with the support of some others, were totally sincere in their desire to uncover and publish the truth about events in the village in Nazi times. They, together with Dr Schwerdtfeger, carried out exhaustive research and omitted nothing from the subsequently published book.

I was also given assistance by them in erecting a memorial in the small Jewish cemetery in the village which they had been instrumental in restoring after years of neglect, including Nazi vandalism.

My husband and I returned to Herleshausen last weekend as guests in the home of the Bürgermeister in order to be present at certain Kristallnacht commemorative ceremonies on November 12, which coincided with publication of the book. The local head of education brought the schoolchildren to the area. They were addressed by both the Bürgermeister and the historian. They were told of the pogrom, its consequences, and their future role in preventing any recurrence.

In the afternoon, at a commemorative meeting in a large, packed hall, chaired by the Bürgermeister, I was asked to speak, and although rather emotionally upset, felt, as the only surviving representative present of the people whose ashes lay in mass graves, I should express my thanks to those who had given them back some dignity by telling their names and stories in the book and made them once more part of the past.

Your obedient servant,
R. B. ROBINSON,
55 Chiltern Court,
Baker Street, NW1,
November 17.

Mappa Mundi sale

From the Earl of Radnor

Sir, Your editorial (November 17) makes the suggestion that Hereford Cathedral is at fault in its intention to sell the Mappa Mundi, and that it perhaps should have gone into the matter more thoroughly with the National Heritage Fund, who then might have purchased it.

Surely it would be simpler, and fulfil the suggestion in your leader, if the Heritage Fund paid off the cathedral's overdraft and other obligations, thus allowing the Mappa to stay in Hereford.

In doing this the fund would acknowledge that cathedrals are a very important part of our heritage, which then might encourage them to examine the plight of Salisbury and Winchester cathedrals and doubtless others.

Yours faithfully,
RADNOR,
Longford Castle,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
November 17.

From Mr Peter Tompkins

Sir, Tens of thousands of visitors poured into the Royal Academy's Age of Chivalry exhibition a year ago, drawn by the fascination of their English medieval heritage and the wealth of treasures exhibited by our parish churches and cathedrals, including the celebrated Mappa Mundi from Hereford. The destruction of a similar map in Germany in the 1939-45 war had left Hereford's map unique in the world.

However, the Church of England is evidently coming to regard its medieval treasures as precious objects to be turned into cash at appropriate opportunities (report, November 17). I cannot understand the short-sighted ecclesiastical simony whereby gifts presented to churches and cathedrals are now regarded as mere reserves, rather as Italian churches lamentably parted with their altarpieces in the 18th century.

Have we learnt nothing at all in valuing our heritage in the last 200 years?

In the Soviet Union, their "heritage" is collected into clinical museums, detached from the reality of urban or rural life: ancient churches have become museums devoid of spirituality. The invaluable quality of our country lies in the continued enjoyment of our cultural past, whether it be a Saxon font, a Jacobean pulpit or a medieval map.

It would be unthinkable for our wealthy society to fritter away its most important assets for short-term gain. I would like to hope that our grandchildren may be able to visit Hereford to see this map and may be able to put on a similar exhibition on medieval art in 50 years' time.

Yours sincerely,
PETER TOMPKINS,
7 Acton Street, WC1,
November 17.

From Mr Harry C. Schwab

Sir, Indeed, there must be serious doubt about the wisdom of Hereford Cathedral's reported decision to sell the Mappa Mundi.

If funds do not materialise to ensure that it remains where it is, as part of our national heritage, one would hope that its future home might be made possible by allusion to the fact that it shows the centre of the world as Jerusalem.

Where could it better be displayed and more widely admired than in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem? That, indeed, would be a worthy home.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY C. SCHWAB,
10 Lauderdale Mansions,
Lauderdale Road, W9,
November 17.

From Mrs Virginia A. Hammond

Sir, My 10-11 square Christmas cake was made early in October and stored, as usual, in the only unbeaten room of the house.

From time to time I cast a casual glance at the neat foil-wrapped package, which appeared to sit awaiting icing totally undisturbed. On retrieval just before Christmas, however, it did feel a little lighter than remembered and I was amazed to find, on carefully unwrapping it in the kitchen, that I was left with an almost perfect outside crust only!

The question is, were the three mice subsequently trapped the culprits? They seemed unbelievably small and apparently sober!

I have not made this year's cake yet.

Yours,
VIRGINIA A. HAMMOND,
Brook House, The Green,
Grove, Wantage, Oxfordshire,
November 10.

Arts on TV

From the Chairman of The Arts Channel

Sir, "The Arts Channel is an insult to anyone who enjoys the arts", declares Mr Games (Media & Marketing, November 16). Among last week's "insults" we showed the Czechoslovak Philharmonic Orchestra, a life of Richard Strauss, Basil Davidson on African culture, Susan Clark in Hedda Gabler, Ruzsalka, The Bolshoi Live, Menuhin on music, and Serkin playing Schubert.

If only the terrestrial channels were as insulting as the celestial! Yours faithful,
JOHN GRIFFITHS, Chairman and Managing Director,
The Arts Channel,
PO Box 7,
Ebbw Vale, Gwent.

Ellipsis slips

From Duncan Elks

Sir, One thing I have learned while being a child is this:

Whenever a queue is demanded of children being given a treat or school dinners: "He who hesitates is last".

Yours, in a hurry,
DUNCAN ELKS (aged 11),
17 Manton Hollow,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
November 11.

From Mr G. M. N. Whiting

Sir, If one misses the point completely, can one be said to have "hit the nail on the thumb"? Yours etc.

G. M. N. WHITING,
The Coachhouse,
Aldershot, Taunton, Somerset,
November 14.

From Mrs C. J. Moggridge

Sir, And (finally) how about "Where there's a will... there's a way"? Yours sincerely,
CLAIRE MOGGIDGE,
29 Rossdale, Sutton, Surrey,
November 12.

IT'S JUST AS FLEXIBLE AS YOUR OLD ONE.



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INSURANCE: KNOCK-FOR-KNOCKOUT 22
PROPERTY: NIGHTMARE BILLS 27

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8170 (-0.0055)
W German mark
3.1489 (-0.0040)
Trade-weighted
77.2 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1489.0 (+1.5)
FT-SE 100
1823.4 (-0.2)

Bargains

23588
USM (Datastream)
160.61 (-0.01)

Merchant bank chief resigns

Mr David Davies is resigning after 14 months as chairman of Hill Samuel, the merchant bank which was bought by the TSB Group last year. But after vacating the chair at the end of this year he will remain a non-executive director.

He was recruited after the abrupt departure of Mr Christopher Castleman, the former chief executive who resigned in protest at Hill Samuel's plan to merge with Union Bank of Switzerland. When the merger fell through, the TSB Group bought the bank in a deal worth £777 million.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2053.52 (+1.07)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	29180.20 (+103.39)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2581.18 (+12.37)
Amsterdam	Genl	859.55 (+1.1)
Sydney	AO	1493.0 (-1.9)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1592.3 (+18.8)
Brussels	General	5317.5 (+5.1)
Paris	CAC	392.6 (+3.0)
Zurich	SKA Genl	501.8 (+16.5)
London	FT-A All-Share	n/a
FT-100		n/a
FT-Gold Mines		176.2 (-2.1)
FT-Fixed Interest		97.18 (+0.07)
FT-Govt Sacs		89.21 (+0.27)
Recent Issues	Page 18	
Closing prices	Page 21	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Allied Lyons	473.5p (+140)
Whitbread 'B'	860p (+100)
Pooleys	875p (+100)
Microfilm Repro	400p (+27)
Tyne Tees TV	364p (+100)
Charter Cons	487p (+160)
Gresham House	450p (+100)
William Collins	785p (+100)
Int Thomson	650p (+100)
Hunterpint	315p (+150)

FALLS:	
Wolstenholme Rink	387.5p (-70)
Sock Stock	275p (-70)
Centraway	90p (-100)
Amrad	90p (-100)
G H Scholes	266p (-80)
Pearl	412p (-170)
Sun Life	951p (-80)
Enterprise	523p (-140)
Lasmo	491p (-110)
Shell	977p (-90)
4pm prices	
SEAO Volume	562.3m

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base:	12%
3-month interbank 12m:	12.5%
3-month eligible bills:	11.75-11.8%
buying rate	
US: Prime Rate:	10%
Federal Funds:	8.5%
3-month Treasury Bills:	7.91-7.89%
30-year bonds:	9.5-9.6%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
\$1.8170	\$1.8165
DM3.1489	DM3.1485
Sfr2.6474	Sfr2.6470
FF10.7794	FF10.7790
Yen222.25	Yen222.20
Index: 77.2	Index: 77.2
ECU 0.656851	SDR 0.747394

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$419.75 pm \$417.75	
close \$417.75-418.25	(£229.75-230.25)
New York:	
Comex \$417.30-417.90	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) 1 pm \$11.95bbl (\$12.05)
Denotes latest trading price

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Alan Bond was still an upward force, with Allied Lyons (01401) 17p richer and Lonrho (01182) up 4p. Priest Mariani (03199) doubled profits and rose 8p while Enterprise (01546) slid 12p on prospects for the Lasmo stake. Aran Energy (02130) was lifted 6p on talk of stake-bidding. Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

★★★★★

Maude hits at barriers in EEC mergers

By Colin Narbrough

The Government yesterday demanded that a European Community merger policy be accompanied by measures to remove barriers protecting Continental firms from hostile takeover bids.

This echoed fears, voiced at the Confederation of British Industry conference last week, that Britain's open stock market exposed companies to predators from countries where different rules and company cultures made firms virtually bid-proof.

Mr Francis Maude, the Corporate Affairs Minister, issued the demand at a meeting of EEC ministers in Brussels. He called on the Commission to devise proposals for creating a "level playing field" for cross-border takeovers.

The Government has reserved its position on the merger control policy which Mr Peter Sutherland, the Competition Commissioner, is trying to put in place before his term of office expires at the end of the year.

While the Government's latest demand was publicly presented as a possible delaying tactic, designed to prevent early agreement on Community-wide merger rules, Mr Maude appeared to take a

more conciliatory line in discussions with ministers.

He told the meeting that Britain could only consider accepting an EEC merger policy if the wider context of merger activity were also considered — primarily barriers to takeovers put up by firms in many EEC states.

He said these barriers could be "poison pill" defences, have a legal basis, or just reflect cultural differences.

On the immediate agenda issue of merger policy, Mr Maude reiterated the Government's position that it could not yet judge whether such a policy would be acceptable.

The Government says this does not represent a "no" to the principle of merger control by Brussels — merely that Britain wanted to see the whole package before agreeing.

Mr Maude and the other ministers agreed to the principle that the Commission would have "exclusive competence" for mergers for which it would be responsible, despite the British demand for "levelling the playing field."

Though this would appear to give Mr Sutherland the "one-stop shop" system of merger control he has been seeking, the exact scope of Brussels responsibility has still to be defined. Mr Sutherland has proposed that the Com-

mission should vet all cross-border mergers in the EEC where combined turnover exceeds 1 billion Ecu.

A Commission spokesman said yesterday's session had made "very significant progress" and the Greek presidency wanted to have a text of the merger policy ready for the next ministerial meeting on December 21.

Mr Sutherland expressed Commission sympathy for the British position on unfair defensive arrangements for companies, and said Lord Cockfield, the Commission vice-president, was working on proposals in this area as part of rules on EEC company law.

He was optimistic that Lord Cockfield could formulate proposals acceptable to Britain in time for the December 21 meeting. The Commission was keen to underline that Mr Maude made no links in terms of timing between merger control rules and steps to create a level playing field for takeovers. The link was only on substance.

Mr Sutherland gave warning that failure to agree on a merger policy would force the Commission to continue to use its powers under the competition provisions of the Treaty of Rome, rules he vigorously applied during his four-year term.

Dividend increase of 10% eases the bad news

British Gas



On the attack: Robert Evans, chief executive, announcing the figures yesterday

British Gas loss soars to £107m

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

British Gas sweetened lower profit figures for the six months to September 30 by raising the interim dividend 10 per cent to 2.75p. With analysts still expecting a full-year profit of more than £1 billion, the market took the figures well, the shares easing 2p to 161½p yesterday.

On a historical cost basis operating profit fell from £145 million to £71 million and pre-tax profit from £111 million to £28 million. The current cost pre-tax loss increased from £31 million to £107 million.

Turnover for the six months was £2.64 billion, 5.4 per cent higher than a year ago.

The volume of gas sales to the domestic market was 8.3 per cent higher and revenue was up 6.9 per cent. Sales to the industrial sector showed a fall in volume of 7.9 per cent. Decline in the world crude oil price affected sales to the large industrial users who take supplies on an interruptible basis. They dropped 1.5 per cent. However, gas sales volumes to those with firm contracts were 4 per cent higher and revenue was up 1.3 per cent.

British Gas said it would begin to calculate early in the new year if any price rise would be needed but it indicated that any rise would be lower than the inflation rate.

Mr Robert Evans, chief executive, attacked some of the proposals for the industry put forward by the Monopolies Commission as "neither practical nor sensible."

Under the Commission's proposals British Gas will publish scheduled prices for its industrial customers rather than negotiating individual contracts with the large industrial users.

Mr Evans said that until the director general of Ofgas, the government watchdog for the industry, had completed his inquiries, no work could be done on working out how industrial prices should be set.

He said: "We hope that agreement on changes can be reached speedily so that we can channel our energies again into the normal development of the business. It seems clear that the profitability of the company will be affected but it is not expected to be a material impact during the current financial year."

Mr Evans revealed that the 1 per cent stake bought in Lasmo this year had been sold for a small profit.

Distillers investor takes legal action against Guinness

By Lawrence Lever

A legal action by a former Distillers shareholder who claims that Guinness cheated in its 1986 takeover of the Scottish drinks group, is due to be heard in the High Court on Friday.

The action, the first by a former Distillers shareholder to be heard by the High Court, relies on the Takeover Panel's ruling that Guinness breached the Takeover Code in the final stages of the bid battle for Distillers in April 1986.

The court case should increase the pressure on Guinness to offer compensation of up to £100 million to former Distillers shareholders.

The action has been brought by Mrs Beatrice Renfield, whose father founded the Renfield Corporation, the former American distributor of Gordon's Gin and other products for Distillers.

She is already suing Guinness for \$3 million (£1.67 million) in a Renfield-related action.

Guinness has sought unsuccessfully to challenge the Takeover Panel's ruling in the courts.

This week the House of Lords refused Guinness permission to have its case argued before the Law Lords.

Although the amount involved is relatively small — £44,000 — the case is significant because of its link with the Panel's ruling.

Some form of compensation appears to be the natural consequence of the ruling, although the Panel has not yet decided what should happen

as a result of Guinness's breach of the Code.

Guinness itself has estimated that it could have to pay out up to £100 million to former Distillers shareholders.

Mrs Renfield has recently amended her statement of claim to sue Guinness in her capacity as a former Distillers shareholder with 44,000 shares.

She pledged these to the Guinness bid for Distillers rather than supporting Argyll, the food and drinks group, which was a rival bidder.

At a preliminary hearing in the High Court on Friday Guinness will argue that both Mrs Renfield's claims are groundless and should be dismissed.

Mrs Renfield's claim as a former Distillers shareholder relies in part on the Panel's ruling.

The Panel found that a secret purchaser of 10 million Distillers shares was acting in concert with Guinness and therefore that the purchase — which was at a price above the Guinness cash alternative — was in breach of the Code.

Mrs Renfield argues that she is entitled to receive an extra £1.01 for each of her Distillers shares.

This represents the difference between the Guinness cash alternative of 630p and the price that the Guinness offer for Distillers ought to have been increased to — namely 731p — if the Panel had known of the secret purchase and allowed the Guinness bid to proceed.

Slowdown in bank lending

The money supply figures for October cheered the City, with a modestly encouraging slowdown in monetary expansion and bank lending. Growth in both the narrow and broad measures of money was lower than in September.

The fall in bank lending was concentrated on borrowing by consumers. The clearing banks reported personal lending up by only £538 million, compared with increases of £1.6 billion in each of the previous three months.

Lending for house purchase also slowed sharply, falling to £736 million from an average of £1.2 billion a month during the summer, while other personal lending fell as credit card holders repaid. Corporate borrowing, however, remained strong.

Total lending on the wider M4 definition rose by £6 billion, lower than the revised figure of £7.9 billion in the previous month and the average of £7.5 billion in the previous six months.

Mr Stephen Hannah of County NatWest said: "It is encouraging to see a low bank lending figure alongside a big public sector surplus."

The preferred broad measure of the money supply, M4, rose a seasonally adjusted 1.2 per cent, cutting the annual rate of increase from 18.6 per cent to 17.4 per cent.

The narrow measure, M0, fell 0.1 per cent, bringing the annual growth rate back from 8.1 per cent to 7.7 per cent. At this rate M0 expansion is still well above the Government's target of 1-5 per cent.

City still fears higher rates may be needed

Increase in mortgage costs pushes inflation to 6.4%

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Inflation rose last month from 5.9 per cent to 6.4 per cent. But the rise was totally due to higher mortgage rates, which were planned to bring inflation down.

Excluding mortgage rates, prices rose by 5.1 per cent in the year to October, slightly less than the 5.2 per cent rise in the year to September. Mr Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, said: "Interest rates have had to be increased to constrain price rises but it will take time. The Government will continue to keep up the fight against inflation."

Retail prices last month

rose by 1 per cent compared with a rise of 0.5 per cent in September. The retail price index was 109.5 (January 1987=100).

This was broadly in line with City expectations, but there is a divergence of views on whether present interest rates are high enough to bring inflation under control.

Mr Gerard Lyons of SBCI-Savory Miln, the broker, said: "The worrying thing is that even taking out mortgage rates inflationary pressures are still high. This seems to point to higher interest rates."

At 6.4 per cent, the rate of

inflation is now higher than the 6.25 per cent forecast in the Chancellor's autumn statement for the final quarter. However, 0.15 per cent was added to the index in November last year to correct a mistake. When that ceases to affect the annual comparison in the next set of figures, the year-on-year rate of inflation, other things being equal, will fall by that amount.

The tax and price index, which measures pay rises needed to compensate for inflation, showed a year-on-year rise last month of 4.5 per cent at 105.4.

Central banks continued to intervene in support of the dollar yesterday. In London the currency rose to a peak of about DM1.7470, almost 2½ pence above Thursday night's New York close, but it later fell back to DM1.7370.

The gilt market showed some relief that the dollar's fall had been arrested, averting the danger of higher interest rates for the time being, and prices of long-dated stock rose by about half a point. However, the dollar was still seen as a weak currency.

Sterling closed more than half a cent down against the dollar at \$1.8162, with the effective exchange rate index unchanged at 77.2.

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Brussels seeks urgent scrutiny without waiting for a complaint

Bid undervalues Plessey, says Clark

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Sir John Clark, the chairman of Plessey, has fiercely condemned the £1.7 billion bid for the company by the General Electric Company (GEC) and Siemens in a letter to shareholders.

The bid was "wholly unwelcome and opportunistic" and "significantly" undervalued the company, said Sir John. He strongly recommended shareholders to take no action and added: "Your board unanimously believes that the proposed bid by GEC and Siemens is not in the best interests of Plessey, its shareholders or its employees."

The bid would deny shareholders the benefit of recent strategic moves made by Plessey, Sir John argued, adding: "Over the last year Plessey has taken several major initiatives to implement its strategy aimed at increasing the company's worldwide strength in telecommunications, defence electronics, microelectronics and information technology."

In the City, the majority view is that

the bid's 225p cash terms for Plessey shares has room to go higher but not very much. At County Natwest WoodMac Mr Iain Johnston said: "The 225p may not be enough but the upside is strictly limited." Lord Westminster, managing director of GEC, has already said that GEC and Siemens were offering to pay "rather heavily" for Plessey.

Plessey, after two days of discussions with its advisers, appears to have decided against an active search for a white knight while accepting the bid situation could bring in a counter-bidder. It is sceptical of how the GEC relationship with Siemens will work and believes the two companies are walking a tight-rope between pleasing shareholders and industrial customers. The Anglo-German partnership has yet to show how its proposals make sense in industry terms, it is being argued.

If Plessey is to remain independent it must convince shareholders that there really will be jam tomorrow, according to County NatWest WoodMac, whose analyst team said: "Management assur-

ances that next year will be better may well be justified but whether they will be effective as a weapon against the might of GEC remains to be seen. Plessey will have to hope that they will be since it seems as though this will be the only weapon it will have in the absence of a monopolies reference."

Mr Peter Sutherland, the outgoing EEC Competition Commissioner, wants the bid scrutinized urgently and has approached the companies for full details without waiting for a complaint from the target company.

A Commission spokesman said that Mr Sutherland, whose period in the Brussels office ends next year, would be examining the bid as soon as he had the appropriate information — this would be soon.

Brussels is expected to give close attention to the "twin-bid" aspect as it could fall within the scope of Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome dealing with moves to restrict competition.

Siemens profile, page 19
Kenneth Fleet, page 19

STOCK MARKET

MB Group shares rise on talk of buying by Elders

THORN EMI: speculation about possible sale of Inmos

The graph displays two indices over a 12-month period from December to November. The DAX index (solid line) shows high volatility, with a peak near 680 in late summer and a sharp decline in November. The FTA index (rebased, shaded area) is much more stable, fluctuating between 500 and 550.

Month	DAX Index (approx.)	FTA Index (approx.)
DEC	500	500
JAN	520	510
FEB	550	520
MAR	580	530
APR	600	540
MAY	620	550
JUN	640	540
JUL	660	530
AUG	680	520
SEP	670	510
OCT	650	520
NOV	580	530

Interest was generally confined to special situations and those companies reporting trading statements. Further central bank support for the dollar helped to bolster senti-

County NatWest, the broker, is luring Mr David Head, an analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton, who was trading. It is also taking on his clients. The two will be joining County NatWest.

The FT-SE 100 index moved narrowly and stood a modest 0.8 of a point lower at 8,822.8 by 2 pm, while the narrower FT 30-share index edged up 0.7 of a point to 488.2.

Gilt moved up $\frac{1}{2}$ %, helped by the banking statistics and the encouraging remarks by Mr Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury Secretary, about

Plessey met some revived speculative support, hardening 2½p to 224p in the wake of

Nabisco

New York (Reuters) — RJR Nabisco's special board committee will meet tomorrow to review any bids received by the close of its auction for the company at midnight, New York time, last night.

New York (Reuters) — RJR Nabisco's special board committee will meet tomorrow to review any bids received by the close of its auction for the company at midnight, New York time, last night.

There was also speculation that the board committee could extend its auction deadline to allow for any new bids. Dealers said there was concern

consortium comprising a group of Chicago investors and Resource Holdings. The consortium would like to acquire Nabisco's tobacco business, the report said.

Hartford Accident and Indemnity and Hartford Life Insurance have also taken

Corning Gl	64%	63%	Mobil
Crane	22%	22%	Monsanto
Curtiss W	51	49%	Montedison
Data Genl	17%	17%	Morgan Jp
Deere Co	46%	46%	Motorola
Delta Air	47%	48	NCR
Detrol Ecl	16%	16%	NL Indstns
Digital Eq	89%	89	Nat Med Ent
Disney	81%	60%	Nat Seml
Dow Chem	82%	82%	Norfolk Sth
Dresser Ind	25%	25%	NW Bancorp

41%	42%	Agco Eag	13%	13%
75%	76%	Alcan Alum	36%	35%
n/a	15	Can Pacific	19%	19%
35%	35%	Cominco	20%	20%
36%	36%	Can Bathurst	14%	14%
51%	61%	Hawk S Can	20%	20%
5%	5%	Hud Bay M	20%	20%
21%	21%	Inasco	26%	26%
8%	8%	Imperial Oil	45%	46%
29%	29%	Inco	35%	34%
31%	31%			

100

Nabisco's share price has been put under pressure by a variety of rumours, particularly that Kohlberg Kravis Roberts is to end, or lower, its

First Boston, the investment bank, was reported to have sent a bid as part of a

Metropolitan Life Insurance has filed suit against Nabisco and Mr. Ross Johnson, its chief executive, for planning a

legal action, alleging that Nabisco engaged in securities fraud in connection with a \$300 million bond offering last April.

DuPont	80	79%	Good Pet
Duke Pwr	45%	45	Ogden Cp
East Kodak	44%	43%	Olin Cp
Eaton Cp	52%	52	PPG Ind
Emerson E	28%	28%	Pac Interp
Emery Air	4%	4%	Pac Gas E
Escon	41%	41%	Pan Am
Farah Inc	7%	8%	Pennay JC

25%	25%	Royal Tristco	15%	15%
27%	27%	Seagram	68%	68%
45%	48	Shell Can	38%	37%
36%	36%	Steeco	20%	20%
37%	37%	Thman N 'A'	26%	27%
17%	17%	Varsity Cp	3.46	3.4
2%	2%	WCE	15%	15%
51%	50%	Weston	35	35

Siemens

CM

THE VITAL ELEMENT

MAKE THE CONNECTION. CONTACT THE COPPER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, 3 ORCHARD HOUSE, POTTERS BAR, HERTS EN6 3AP

150

	Cable					Fax					Series					Cable					Fax					Series				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May					
Ald Lyran (474)	420	64	30	14	5	22	32																							
(1470)	460	33	50	64	14	21	33																							
Brl Afr (180)	180	9	18	42	8	10	14	52																						
(122)	180	21	12	22	2	10	14	52																						
Brl Com (220)	220	19	27	30	8	11	13	32																						
(240)	240	8	16	30	8	11	13	32																						
BP (247)	220	31	34	28	5	4	6	8	13	48																				
(250)	220	31	34	28	5	4	6	8	13	48																				
Bra	350	85	105	105	15	23	25	25																						
(734)	350	85	105	105	15	23	25	25																						
Ca W	850	10	28	47	67	70	70	70																						
(357)	850	10	28	47	67	70	70	70																						
Cals Gold (1195)	430	5	13	23	32	33	33	40																						
(1195)	430	5	13	23	32	33	33	40																						
Courtesy (277)	300	36	14	10	20	26	29	30																						
(277)	300	36	14	10	20	26	29	30																						
Com Union (352)	300	34	40	28	13	10	14	14																						
(352)	300	34	40	28	13	10	14	14																						
DNV	300	27	25	41	5	11	14	14																						
(317)	300	27	25	41	5	11	14	14																						
Grand Mer (457)	280	4	7	13	43	50	51	51																						
(457)	280	4	7	13	43	50	51	51																						
ICI (1006)	1000	50	67		24	45																								
(1006)	1000	50	67		24	45																								
Jaguar (240)	1650	24	42	49	57	57	57	57																						
(240)	1650	24	42	49	57	57	57	57																						
Land Sen (740)	280	36	112	22	31	15	24	34																						
(740)	280	36	112	22	31	15	24	34																						

UNLISTED SECURITIES										FOREIGN EXCHANGES									
1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986	1986
High	Low	Company	Price	Other	Change	%	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price	Other	Change	%	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price
15	15	SWA S M G	48	48				72	72	Guthrie	155	155				155	155	Argentine austral	26.41-28.57
16	16	ATA Selection	100	100				73	73	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Australian dollar	2.1225-2.1261
17	17	Atlantic S&H	100	100				74	74	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Bahraini dinar	0.6810-0.6850
18	18	Atlantic S&H	100	100				75	75	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Brazil cruzeiro	988.13-974.54
19	19	Atlantic S&H	100	100				76	76	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Cypriot pound	0.8550-0.8594
20	20	Atlantic S&H	100	100				77	77	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	French franc	16.48-16.52
21	21	Atlantic S&H	100	100				78	78	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	German mark	1.47-1.4725
22	22	Atlantic S&H	100	100				79	79	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Greece drachma	260.50-262.50
23	23	Atlantic S&H	100	100				80	80	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Indian rupee	14.18-14.22
24	24	Atlantic S&H	100	100				81	81	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Indonesia rupiah	217-217.34
25	25	Atlantic S&H	100	100				82	82	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Israeli sheqel	1.80-1.805
26	26	Atlantic S&H	100	100				83	83	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Japanese yen	160.50-162.50
27	27	Atlantic S&H	100	100				84	84	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Kenyan shilling	1.00-1.005
28	28	Atlantic S&H	100	100				85	85	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Malaysian ringgit	1.47-1.4725
29	29	Atlantic S&H	100	100				86	86	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Mexican peso	25.40-25.45
30	30	Atlantic S&H	100	100				87	87	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	New Zealand dollar	0.4905-0.4915
31	31	Atlantic S&H	100	100				88	88	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Philippine peso	49.00-49.10
32	32	Atlantic S&H	100	100				89	89	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Saudi Arabian riyal	2.7500-2.7550
33	33	Atlantic S&H	100	100				90	90	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Singapore dollar	3.3300-3.3346
34	34	Atlantic S&H	100	100				91	91	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Taiwan dollar	6.7700-6.7750
35	35	Atlantic S&H	100	100				92	92	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	Thailand baht	1.47-1.4725
36	36	Atlantic S&H	100	100				93	93	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	U.S. dollar	1.00-1.005
37	37	Atlantic S&H	100	100				94	94	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	U.S. dollar	1.00-1.005
38	38	Atlantic S&H	100	100				95	95	Harlow Jones	155	155				155	155	U.S. dollar	1.00-1.005

<p>TO PLACE YOUR PERSONAL COLUMN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES</p> <p>TRADE ADVERTISERS TEL: 01-481 1920</p> <p>ADVERTISING FAX NO. 01-481 9313</p> <p>PRIVATE ADVERTISERS TEL: 01-481 4000</p>	<p>STUDIOS, APARTMENTS, VILLAS, CHATEAUX & ISLANDS IN THE SUN</p> <p>TO GET MORE OF THEM INTO YOURS CALL:</p> <p>THE TIMES CLASSIFIED</p> <p>01-481 4000</p>
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41	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	
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Portfolio
—PLUS—
Accumulator
© Times Newspapers Limited

WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000
Claims required for 227 points

ACCUMULATOR £8,000
Claims better than 227 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

[illegible]

250	232	UMR	water	417	437	● +2	223	239	15.2
286	134	VPI	Go	556	180	..	23	15	18.9
271	195	WCRS		210	212	..	53	25	11.3
833	403	WPP		577	584	● +5	137	24	21.0
315	172	WPS		288	302	..	43	14	26.0

PROPERTY									
125	89	Alfred Len	132	135	• • •	3.7	2.8	12.8	
200	133	Arizaga Sam	172	181	• • •	•	3.4	13.0	
195	100	Ash	168	167	• • •	0.1	0.8	47.1	
132	53	BHR Group	132	130	• • •	1.7	1.7	16.9	
132	210	Baker Hans	228	225	• • •	0.3	0.6	11.1	
487	303	Belmont	493	490	• • •	19.0	19.3	26.9	
100	100	Bellman	100	100	• • •	•	•	•	

[illegible][illegible]

145	38	Wilmington	107	111
146	38	Washington	107	111
147	38	Washington	107	111
148	38	Washington	107	111
149	38	Washington	107	111
150	38	Washington	107	111
151	38	Washington	107	111
152	38	Washington	107	111
153	38	Washington	107	111
154	38	Washington	107	111
155	38	Washington	107	111
156	38	Washington	107	111
157	38	Washington	107	111
158	38	Washington	107	111
159	38	Washington	107	111
160	38	Washington	107	111
161	38	Washington	107	111
162	38	Washington	107	111
163	38	Washington	107	111
164	38	Washington	107	111
165	38	Washington	107	111
166	38	Washington	107	111
167	38	Washington	107	111
168	38	Washington	107	111
169	38	Washington	107	111
170	38	Washington	107	111
171	38	Washington	107	111
172	38	Washington	107	111
173	38	Washington	107	111
174	38	Washington	107	111
175	38	Washington	107	111
176	38	Washington	107	111
177	38	Washington	107	111
178	38	Washington	107	111
179	38	Washington	107	111
180	38	Washington	107	111
181	38	Washington	107	111
182	38	Washington	107	111
183	38	Washington	107	111
184	38	Washington	107	111
185	38	Washington	107	111
186	38	Washington	107	111
187	38	Washington	107	111
188	38	Washington	107	111
189	38	Washington	107	111
190	38	Washington	107	111
191	38	Washington	107	111
192	38	Washington	107	111
193	38	Washington	107	111
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195	38	Washington	107	111
196	38	Washington	107	111
197	38	Washington	107	111
198	38	Washington	107	111
199	38	Washington	107	111
200	38	Washington	107	111

229	108	Turnbull Scott	223	230	..	6.0	2.5	17.5
SHOES, LEATHER								

195	195	Midland Seng	165	72	1.3	1.9	10.8
270	108	London Warwick	175	125	..	11.3	8.4
145	145	Palmi Group	200	200	..	10.0	10.0
255	255	Strong & Fisher	230	240	..	10.0	7.4
300	300	Style	260	280	-10	6.7	2.5

TEXTILES								
360	360	Atlat Text	340	345	..	12.8	37	18.4
110	110	Text Last	270	270	..	7.6	7.2	12.4
116	103	Reckman (A)	270	183
71	34	Balton	57	60

88	55	Cocob	64	66	-1	16.0	5.8	7.3
395	274	Coortnolds (m)	276	277	-1 $\frac{1}{2}$	16.0	5.8	7.3
248	187	Dawson	206	209	-1	10.4	5.0	10.5
130	100	Drummond	101	104	..	4.1	4.0	6.4

21	211	155	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
22	212	156	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
23	213	157	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
24	214	158	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
25	215	159	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
26	216	160	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
27	217	161	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
28	218	162	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
29	219	163	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
30	220	164	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
31	221	165	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
32	222	166	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
33	223	167	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
34	224	168	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
35	225	169	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
36	226	170	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
37	227	171	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
38	228	172	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
39	229	173	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
40	230	174	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
41	231	175	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
42	232	176	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
43	233	177	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
44	234	178	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
45	235	179	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
46	236	180	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
47	237	181	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
48	238	182	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
49	239	183	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
50	240	184	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
51	241	185	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
52	242	186	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
53	243	187	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
54	244	188	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
55	245	189	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
56	246	190	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
57	247	191	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
58	248	192	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
59	249	193	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
60	250	194	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
61	251	195	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
62	252	196	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
63	253	197	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
64	254	198	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
65	255	199	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
66	256	200	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
67	257	201	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
68	258	202	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
69	259	203	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
70	260	204	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
71	261	205	Canada	500	710	7	32	45	16.1
72									

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12

● Ex dividend ■ Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed † Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment & Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

FAMILY MONEY

LARGER LOANS				
Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Norley Economic 6782 10873	12.50	60 - 100k	90	
North of England 091 5656272	12.25	40k	90	
Sheffield 4742 725308	12.50	5 - 100k	90	
BANKS				
Boston Safe 01 529 4352	12.55	50 - 300k	90	
OTHER (FINANCE HOUSE)				
United Mortgage Corp	11.25*	25 - 150k	95	*Rate until 1.1.89 Enquiries Warrins, Arrangement fee £150

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Nantley Economic 0782 206733	12.50	60 - 100k	90	
North of England 051 565572	12.25	40k	90	
Sheffield 0742 725338	12.50	5 - 100k	90	
BANKS				
Banking Rate 01 929 4382	12.55	50 - 300k	90	
OTHER (FINANCE HOUSE)				
United Mortgage Corp 0225 450045	11.25*	25 - 150k	95	*Rate England Wales/Arrangement fee £150

How does that compare with the standard rules? Motor insurers run a vast cobweb of knock-for-knock agreements, where each will pay for the damage to its own customers' car. The system works on "claim not blame".

About four in every 10 of Britain's motorists have a protected bonus scheme, so their bills next year will be unaffected. Otherwise, knock-for-knock will usually ensure that the motorist affected will find a sharp rise in the following year's premium. There are five steps on the standard discount ladder and a claim will usually mean that you fall two rungs. If you are getting the full 60 per cent no claims discount, it will fall to 40 per cent.

The process is not automatic, as the insurers point out. But you do not so

Mini impact, Maxi damage: Accidents where one party is blameless usually lead to an increased insurance premium

much have to prove your innocence as provide good evidence for someone else's guilt. The standard procedure is to sue the other driver for any "excess" you have got — the first £50 or £100 of any claim you may have agreed to pay. If he agrees, or is made to agree all is well.

So the automatic "no blame, no penalty" scheme breaks new ground. The snag is that the companies act as judge and jury on whether you were responsible.

Michael Edwards, development director of Insurance Services, denies it will be a problem. He said: "Responsibility for most accidents is clear-cut. If

there is any degree of liability, we'll have to judge things case by case. What's more, if customers disagree, they can appeal, or perhaps even go to the Insurance Ombudsman."

The big plus with no blame insurance is for people whose cars are damaged by hit-and-run drivers, or badly dented in a car park. They will have a penalty-free comeback on the no-penalty scheme the Insurance Service operates. They will not elsewhere.

The group is a subsidiary of the Royal, and its biggest competitor Direct Line, belongs to the Royal Bank of Scotland.

All the direct writing companies are fishing in the same pool for the best risks. They take only experienced drivers with a 50 per cent no-claim discount already, many will insist clients must be at least 25 years old. Premiums look competitive, partly because they do not have to pay outsiders commission. But cynics may reflect that cut-price insurance may bring cut-price standards. It seems unlikely in the short term, because the companies are all trying to build up their market, and cannot afford to take a harsher line than the rest of the industry.

So, if you qualify and the terms are right, the new "no blame contracts" are worth a second look.

In just two or three months, offshore funds will at last be free to advertise as openly as unit trusts, writes *Pauline Skypala*. The Department of Trade and Industry has announced its decision to grant Jersey and the Isle of Man designated status under Section 87 of the *Financial Services Act*. Guernsey is expected to follow soon.

This allows managers with funds based in these areas to apply to the Securities and Investments Board to become "recognized" schemes. They then sit back and wait for two months, and provided no objections are raised, can go ahead with their advertising campaigns when the two months is up.

The managers most eager to get in early applications are those running gift funds and umbrella funds, which have a strong marketing appeal. Offshore gift funds can offer high income yields, paid without tax, and are a safe source. Offshore umbrella funds steal a march over unit trusts with their benefits of a low investment choice plus low cost and capital gains tax-free, switching between the sub funds.

It should be not riskier to invest in one of these funds than in a unit trust, from the point of view of investor protection. Any offshore funds recognized by the SIB will be covered by the compensation schemes introduced in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, which are more or less identical to the UK scheme.

lure, NatWest will exploit a section of the Pep rules so investors do not have to sell shares in order to pay the second call and thus dilute their holdings. Once a Pep is set up, no new shares can be bought or new money brought into the plan. It is possible to set up a second Pep, introduce cash to it to pay the maintenance, but the original shares apportioned between the plans. Both peps will mature end of 1989.

Investors can apply for between £1,500 and £3,000 worth of shares in BS. If the offer is scaled down, investors have three options: sell the BS and use proceeds to buy other stocks within the Pep, keep the shares and use the balance to buy another stock so long as a minimum of £1000 remains in BS and £1,500 goes into a second stock or use the returned cash to buy further British Stocks which are in the plan.

Sharelink, the no-frills dealing service set up by British Telecom and Birmingham brokers Albert & Sharp has set up a separate unit to deal with the issue, with a special low commission rate of 0.75 per cent with a minimum of £11.

Sharelink, which has 26,000 clients is open seven days a week from 8.30 am to 6 pm during the week and from 10 to 4 weekends special British Stock phone number: 021-233 3033.

Norwich & Peterborough Building Society has a special £10 dealing rate for British Stock shares. The society, which has 65 branches, is

to offer the execution-only
because it has bought stock-
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The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading.

Playing the perks market

Maria Scott

Please send me details of the new Allchurches Personal Pension Plan.
Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Freepost CR1717, Gloucester GL1 1BR.


Name _____ Title _____

Date of Birth _____ Employed/Self employed _____

Address _____

Telephone No _____ TT 13/11/88

I understand that a representative of the company may call.

Allchurches 

Life Assurance Limited

a member of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group

Peasford House, Braunsell Road, Gloucester GL1 1EZ. Tel: 0452 26265.

Insurance you can believe in.

Members of HNBK and LAUTRO - relevant business, life assurance and travel trusts.

FAMILY MONEY

LETTERS

Extra from the Halifax

Readers' letters for publication are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns, and independent professional advice should always be sought.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 21).

Sec	Old	New	Sec	Old	New	Sec	Old	New	Sec	Old	New
1	+5	+4	11	+5	+3	21	+8	+6	31	+8	+6
2	+8	+4	12	+5	+3	22	+7	+5	32	+4	+1
3	+3	+3	13	+7	+4	23	+8	+6	33	+6	+5
4	+8	+4	14	+5	+3	24	+7	+5	34	+4	+2
5	+5	+2	15	+7	+4	25	+5	+2	35	+9	+5
6	+7	+5	16	+8	+5	26	+4	+1	36	+4	+1
7	+7	+3	17	+5	+3	27	+8	+6	37	+6	+5
8	+4	+2	18	+3	+1	28	+8	+6	38	+7	+5
9	+8	+2	19	+4	+1	29	+5	+2	39	+7	+5
10	+7	+2	20	+4	+1	30	+8	+6	40	+8	+6
11	+5	+3	21	+8	+6	31	+8	+6	41	+5	+2
12	+5	+3	22	+7	+5	32	+4	+1	42	+8	+6
13	+7	+4	23	+8	+6	33	+6	+5	43	+7	+5
14	+5	+3	24	+7	+5	34	+4	+2	44	+3	+3
15	+7	+4	25	+5	+2	35	+9	+5			
16	+8	+5	26	+4	+1	36	+4	+1			
17	+5	+3	27	+8	+6	37	+6	+5			
18	+3	+1	28	+8	+6	38	+7	+5			
19	+4	+1	29	+5	+2	39	+7	+5			
20	+4	+1	30	+8	+6	40	+8	+6			
21	+8	+6	31	+8	+6	41	+5	+2			
22	+7	+5	32	+4	+1	42	+8	+6			
23	+8	+6	33	+6	+5	43	+7	+5			
24	+7	+5	34	+4	+2	44	+3	+3			
25	+5	+2	35	+9	+5						
26	+4	+1	36	+4	+1						
27	+8	+6	37	+6	+5						
28	+8	+6	38	+7	+5						
29	+5	+2	39	+7	+5						
30	+8	+6	40	+8	+6						
31	+8	+6	41	+5	+2						
32	+4	+1	42	+8	+6						
33	+6	+5	43	+7	+5						
34	+4	+2	44	+3	+3						
35	+9	+5									
36	+4	+1									
37	+6	+5									
38	+7	+5									
39	+7	+5									
40	+8	+6									
41	+5	+2									
42	+8	+6									
43	+7	+5									
44	+3	+3									

You advised telling the Office of Fair Trading if a building society tried to charge a fee when a mortgagee wished to change his property insurance (Wind of Change, October 8).

Recently the Halifax sent me the annual renewal premium on my house insurance policy with the Royal Insurance, which had increased by 26 per cent. I cancelled the policy and took out a new one with Direct Line Insurance, which provided the same cover but was substantially cheaper. The Halifax agreed Direct Line was perfectly acceptable, but charged £12.50 for administration.

I wrote to the OFT, which replied it was disappointed "that some building societies impose charges and recognise these might discourage borrowers from looking elsewhere for their insurance", but accepted a charge could be justified to cover the costs involved in transferring the policy.

As far as I know, the only administration was looking at the new policy. The OFT

suggested writing to the Building Societies Ombudsman if I felt the administrative fee was unjustified. This would be difficult, if not impossible for a mortgagee to substantiate. This attitude seems to attempt to discourage house owners from transferring their insurance, as does the Halifax's letter suggesting it might be better to leave things unchanged. The most discouraging aspect is the Halifax's willingness to pass on the Royal's higher premium without comment or apparently trying to get it reduced.

S. W. BAINBRIDGE, Loughborough Road, Birstall, Leicestershire LE4 3EG.

The Halifax replies: The society has implemented premium rates in line with the general insurance market. While we accept better terms can be obtained by the borrower through Direct Line, the society considers it essential to deal with leading UK insurers to ensure continuity of performance and an acceptable attitude to claim settlements.

The society's fee of £12.50 splits between an administration fee of £7.50 to cover the cost of checking the policy, correspondence, and changes to the computer system. However, even though a policy may be acceptable at inception, there is no guarantee it will not fail at some time due to an action of the borrower, non-payment of premium, or damage to the property not covered by the policy. The society arranges back-up insurance - at £5 per case - to protect its own interests should a loss occur. These additional costs should be met by the borrower rather than the society.

The fees are incurred by the borrower in the first year only and can in no way be interpreted as a discouragement to transferring the insurance. Any premium saving in the first year may meet the cost of such charges and of course in subsequent years the borrower could enjoy the benefit of any reduced premium available.

citizens caused by death while driving must be addressed. I have had letters from others denied compensation in similar circumstances. I gather the matter gets lumped in with the more general issue of compensation to victims of crime.

Why not introduce a provision which stipulates third party insurance should cover an authorized insured driver till he steps out, or is carried out, of his car?

DONALD R. CHILVERS, Coopers & Lybrand, London EC4A 4HT

Adding units of expense

I received a letter from a unit trust group stating their annual service charge will increase next year by 50 per cent (from 1 to 1½ per cent). The apparent reason is changes regarding their business imposed by the Financial Services Act 1986. This amounts to investors paying an increased fee to the very people the legislation is intended to protect them against.

JEREMY STRONG, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3PQ

Death at the driving wheel

You published my letter (November 5) about my unfortunate experience with a vehicle which had been driven by someone who died at the wheel. I am pleased to say that my claim has now been settled in full by Renown of Leylands.

The whole question of ac-

cidental body I can do without. If I save up the charges Girobank does not make, perhaps I'll earn enough to promote me to a "higher socio-economic group".

IAN PARSONS, 7 Beach Hill, Milford Haven, Dyfed

Private of this par-

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE OF UNIT TRUST WITH THREE FUNDS FROM M&G.

With over 1,200 unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose?

In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust. M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each:

Recovery Fund for capital growth.

Dividend Fund for increasing income.

Second General Fund for a balance between income and growth.

It would be hard to find three funds with more convincing long term records. One of them is likely to be the right choice for you.

Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT 100 INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1970	1,176	857	1,080
1975	2,840	1,112	1,466
1980	10,256	2,770	2,840
1985	27,080	4,927	3,240
16 NOV '88	59,392	6,943	3,995*

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Recovery Fund on 23 May 1969 would have grown to £59,392 by 16 November 1988 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION On 16th November 1988 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

Income	Accumulation	Yield	Spread
Recovery	580-7p	785-1p	3-54% 5-44%
Dividend	573-2p	1808-4p	5-10% 5-44%
SECOND	590-7p	208-9p	3-33% 6-44%

The prices are calculated as at 9.15 am each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the "offered price" (at which you buy units) and the "bid" price (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing bases of the units and also the spread within a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price. An annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value - currently 1% for Recovery and Second General and 1% for Dividend - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

Distributions	20 Feb	15 Jan	15 Feb
Recovery	20 Feb	15 Jan	15 Feb
Dividend	20 Feb	15 Jan	15 Feb
SECOND	20 Feb	15 Jan	15 Feb

Applications required by 23 Dec '88 20 May '89 9 Dec '89 for next distribution on 20 Feb '89 15 July '89 15 Feb '89

Capital gains tax 1988-89. An individual's first £5,000 of realised capital gains will be exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £5,000 will be added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31st March 1982 are not now subject to capital gains tax and gains since 31st March 1982 are subject to indexation relief. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement by the date shown on the contract note. The Trustees for Dividend and Recovery are Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wide-range investments and are authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income from higher yielding shares.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
8 May '64	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1965	1,440	1,020	1,020	1,000
1970	46	49	1,078	1,000
1975	83	72	1,630	1,000
1980	186	103	2,428	1,000
1985	228	87	5,515	1,000
16 NOV '88	368	65*	10,840	1,000

NOTES All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Dividend figures are all realisation values. £1,000 invested in M&G Dividend Fund income units on 8 May 1964 would have produced an income of £368 by 16 November 1988 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G Second General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 32-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies and expected yield in line with the F.T. Actuaries All Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1960	1,952	2,008	1,157
1965	3,132	2,623	1,397
1970	4,648	3,054	1,742
1975	7,964	3,962	2,368
1980	19,640	3,476	3,476
1985	54,600	17,624	5,229
16 NOV '88	95,184	24,732	6,447*

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Second General figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Second General on 5 June 1956 would have grown to £95,184 by 16 November 1988 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION will be sent with your contract note. However, if you would like the Scheme Particulars before investing, or the latest fund reports, you can obtain them free of charge from: M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 266266.

INVESTMENT FROM £1,000

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1FB. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and Second and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

RECOVERY (MIN £1,000)		£	0.00
DIVIDEND (MIN £1,000)		£	0.00
SECOND (MIN £1,000)		£	0.00

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Registration No. 107776 Reg. Office: Three Oakes, Seven Hill, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 8BQ. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

THE M&G GROUP

TAKE THE WORRY OUT OF WHEN TO INVEST WITH M&G'S UNIT TRUST SAVINGS PLAN FROM £25 A MONTH

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £25 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st November 1988 your total outlay of £4,500 would have built up to £8,562.

On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in M&G SECOND GENERAL Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £26,110, an extra £17,548.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £25. By saving a regular amount you take the worry out of when to invest and can make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose at the price ruling on receipt of payment and net income is automatically reinvested. All the Funds are wide-range investments and are authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986. Detailed information on Recovery, Dividend and SECOND General is given below. The rules of the Plan, Scheme Particulars, and the latest annual and half-yearly reports on these funds can be obtained, free of charge, from M&G's Customer Services Department at the address below.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the "offer" price and sell at the "bid" price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ (min £25) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund carried.

M&G RECOVERY
M&G DIVIDEND
M&G SECOND

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM APPLICATION FORM

TO: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1FB.

YOUR BANK _____ PERSONAL BANK _____

PLEASE PAY TO NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC, 351, New Broad Street, Chelmsford CM2 0UL (Branch Code: 60-05-46) Account No. 55733270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT) the following:

Reference (PLEASE PRINT) _____ the sum of £ 00 on the _____ day of _____ 19____ and continue to pay that amount on the _____ day of each month until further order is made from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments (FROM YOUR BANK) AND INITIALS _____

ADDRESS _____ SIGNATURE _____

The operation of your account will be subject to the Rules of the Plan.

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £25) and that I am a regular investor in my business day without penalty at the best prevailing rate.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Member of MRO and LauTro. Member of UTA.

Registered in England No. 107776. Incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

THE M&G GROUP

Don't let the big one get away.

Over the next few years we're convinced that Europe will provide an exceptional investment opportunity.

That conviction isn't founded simply on the fact that the composite continental index has proved more profitable for UK investors than Footsie recently.

It's not just that Germany is leading its trading partners in a strong economic expansion and companies throughout Europe are reporting bigger and better profits.

Our belief is reinforced by the recent acceleration of merger and acquisition activity and we believe there will be an unprecedented number of takeovers on the continent in the run up to 1992.

Witness the activities of Nestlé.

Witness Moët-Hennessy-Louis Vuitton.

Prevailing wisdom says big fish will thrive better in the new open market, so the move is on for growth. Last year there were over 900 mergers and acquisitions in

France alone. Now hundreds of millions of Eurodollars have been earmarked by major US financial houses to finance leveraged buyouts.

There's many a gain to be netted. But needless to say there's a catch.

To fish successfully in international waters you have to know the currents.

Fortunately, at Scottish Widows, our continental fund management team has been getting the investment angle right in Europe for decades.

At present our experts are actively managing European assets worth more than £550 million.

Since the launch of our Pegasus European Trust in February 1986 the value of its accumulation units are up 37.8%* on an offer to bid basis.

But remember the value of units may fluctuate and is not guaranteed and past results are not necessarily a guide to future performance.

To find out more about our European Trust and the investment opportunities it provides, contact your Independent Financial Advisor.

Alternatively, simply drop us a line. Or ring us on 031 668 3724.

To: Scottish Widows Fund Management Limited FREEPOST, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 0NE.

Please send me full details of Scottish Widows' (Please tick) Pegasus European Trust ☐ Other Pegasus Unit Trusts ☐

Full Name _____ Address _____

* 1% extra units for every new investment of £1,000 and over in any single Pegasus Unit Trust during November. ** 1.4.86-25.10.88.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS PEGASUS EUROPEAN TRUST

FAMILY MONEY

Starting your own DIY private school

Ten years ago, the small private Bronte primary school in Gravesend, Kent, was set to close — to the dismay of local parents. Thirty-eight couples banded together and resolved to form a trust to buy the crumbling buildings. Lack of finance thwarted their efforts until parents Peers and Susie Carter stepped in.

To enable the school to

Is your private school facing closure? Why not, suggests Rachel Warren, buy it

continue, they sold their home, bought the buildings for £20,000 and moved into the shabby twin Regency villas. Their five-year-old, Louise, became the only resident pupil. Their middle daughter, Zuleika, has passed through the school and Serena, eight, is the latest of the Carter contin-

gent in the 78-strong establishment.

As an investment, ex-Saatchi copywriter Carter, who has had to raise £90,000 for renovations, says: "It is not the great business idea of the decade. But it's a very nice thing to do if you get it right."

In the 1980s, more and more

parents believe they can find good schooling in the independent sector — the proportion of schoolchildren in England attending private schools has risen from 4.84 per cent in 1980 to more than 7 per cent. The parents — 60 per cent of whom never attended independent schools themselves — are highly involved and playing a greater supportive role than the independent system has ever experienced before.

In the mid-1970s, a group of parents in Chester was unnerved when the local primary school was sold and the new owner announced that the land would be used to build houses. Though the Abbey Gate School was saved in other premises, the parental force continued to gather momentum for a new venture — launching a secondary co-educational school.

A parent-founder, chartered surveyor John Baines now chairman of Abbey Gate College, explains the project.

"We said to parents: 'If 20 of you are prepared to pay a capital sum of £4,000 and enter into a contract with a charitable trust that will guarantee to educate your child for five years, we are prepared to float the school.'"

From the then Duke of Westminster's estate, they had acquired a long lease on a

Victorian mansion, Saighton Grange with 16 acres of land. They launched the school in 1977 with 66 pupils, expanded to 120 in the second year and now have their quota of 320. The school has never been in debt; fees and parental contributions helped them turn stables into sixth-form blocks and laundries into technical laboratories. Only now, faced with raising a third of a million pounds for a new school hall, might they need a loan.

In Yorkshire three years ago, parents concerned with the future of the old-established Queen Margaret's School for Girls decided to buy it from the Woodard Corporation. When the head office of the Yorkshire Bank agreed to fund the project, it took headmaster Colin McGarrigle and chairman of governors Richard Field, just hours to rally the parents and find the necessary guarantors

for the hundreds of thousands of pounds required. Peers Carter found that schools, like business ventures, are highly vulnerable to rumour and speculation. "Our school is full to bursting and a few years ago we wanted to expand into a larger building. To our horror the word went around that we were going to sell up and close down."

From that near death blow a new venture was born. "It struck me," he said, "that there should be a scheme to transfer schools — a kind of marriage bureau to make sure the right person takes over a school when the owner is leaving or retiring."

"It is a booming market and I think it's a jolly good thing that outsiders are investing in schools," says Mr Carter, who now has an estimated £10 million portfolio of potential transfers and sales.

But most schools in Britain continue to be run by char-

itable trusts, says David Woodhead of Isis, the Independent Schools Information Service. Of their 1,400 member-schools, 1,102 are run by trusts, 111 are limited companies and the remaining 147 are proprietary.

When Keith Ladbury, 84, went into the school sales and transfer market in the 1920s, there were 2,000 independent schools in Britain, many boarding, almost equally distributed between North and South and often owned and run by the headmaster or principal. "Just occasionally," he said, "schools were on leases and the headmaster was paid."

The war changed that. Independent schools were closed or moved. Parents wanted children closer to home. In areas like the Lake District, where boarding schools remote from the cities had once thrived, they gradually died out. Today's schools are

largely concentrated in the south east, though excellent ones still thrive in Scotland, Lancashire and Wales.

"In all those years," he said, "the schools transfer business has not changed dramatically. One always had to get to know the schools."

A viable school of 50 children might cost £175,000, says Mr Townley Shenton, who took over the Ladbury business three years ago.

When Mr Carter was first looking for a loan to refurbish Bronte School, he was turned down by dozens of building societies. Buyers can now expect a better reception. Some large banks will now consider viable schools as investments and give advice.

The guidelines on establishing a new independent school can be obtained from the Department of Education and will be available in a new document from Isis published this month.



Peers Carter and wife Susie with Serena, eight. Raised £90,000 for renovations and saved a school in Kent

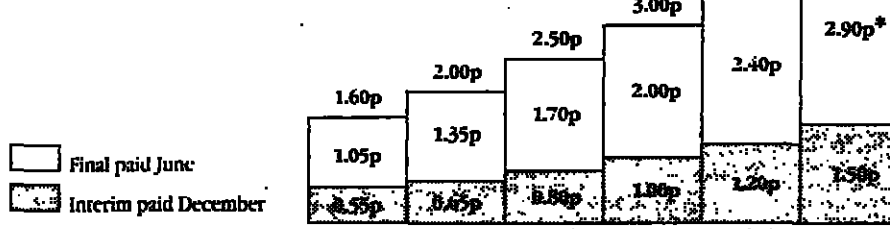
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Comfort for the old left in the cold

As winter approaches, thousands of people are dreading the inevitable high heating bills. The new "very cold weather benefit" payment scheme will be operated again this winter for certain vulnerable groups of people.

Under the scheme, an extra £5-a-week benefit will be paid to those who are eligible for each week of "very cold weather". This year however, there are a number of changes in the scheme which should enable many more people to receive the extra payment.

Who is eligible? Claimants must receive Income Support (IS) and have a maximum of £500 savings. In addition, they must:

- Receive an IS pensioner premium, or
- Receive an IS higher pensioner premium or IS disability premium, or
- Have a child in the house under the age of two.

A week will be declared "very cold" when the average temperature recorded

over seven days is 0°C or less. The seven days must run from Monday to Sunday, so a spate of severe weather from, say, Wednesday to Thursday does not count.

The improvements this year all stem from the fact that entitlements are linked to IS. Whereas in the past only those over 65 became eligible through the upper age limit, because IS pensioner premiums can be paid to those over 60 this means the cold weather payment can be paid at 60.

Second, in previous years those who were sick or disabled had to prove they had had a severe illness for at least six months or were substantially, permanently disabled. This year, anyone receiving a disability premium with their IS payment will be entitled to the extra £5. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the IS rules do not use the old Supplementary Benefit distinction between "householders" and "non-householders". In the past that distinction often

meant that where, for example, severely disabled people receiving Supplementary Benefit, living with their parents who were not on benefit, would not be entitled to the extra payment. Now they will — providing they are receiving IS.

The major drawback to the scheme is that Department of Social Security offices (now fondly known as DoSS) will not identify those people who should be entitled to the special payment. Payments will only be made to those who claim, so members of the vulnerable groups mentioned above should watch the national press for announcements about when to claim.

However, people who make a successful claim in respect of one period of very cold weather will automatically receive payments for later periods of cold weather during the winter.

The new arrangements took effect from Monday November 7.

Charles Jackson



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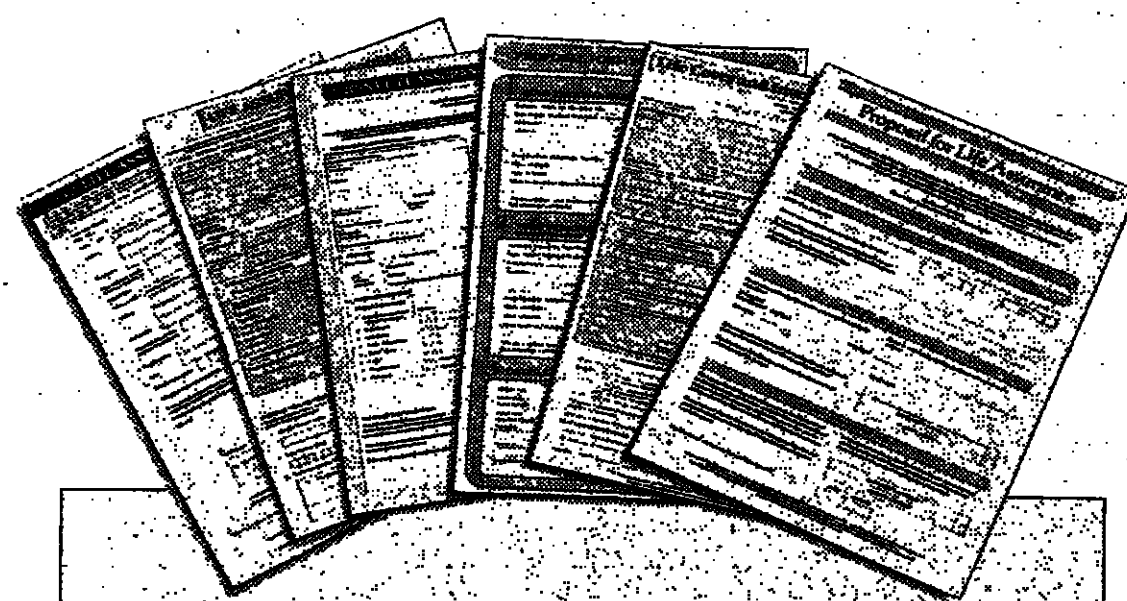
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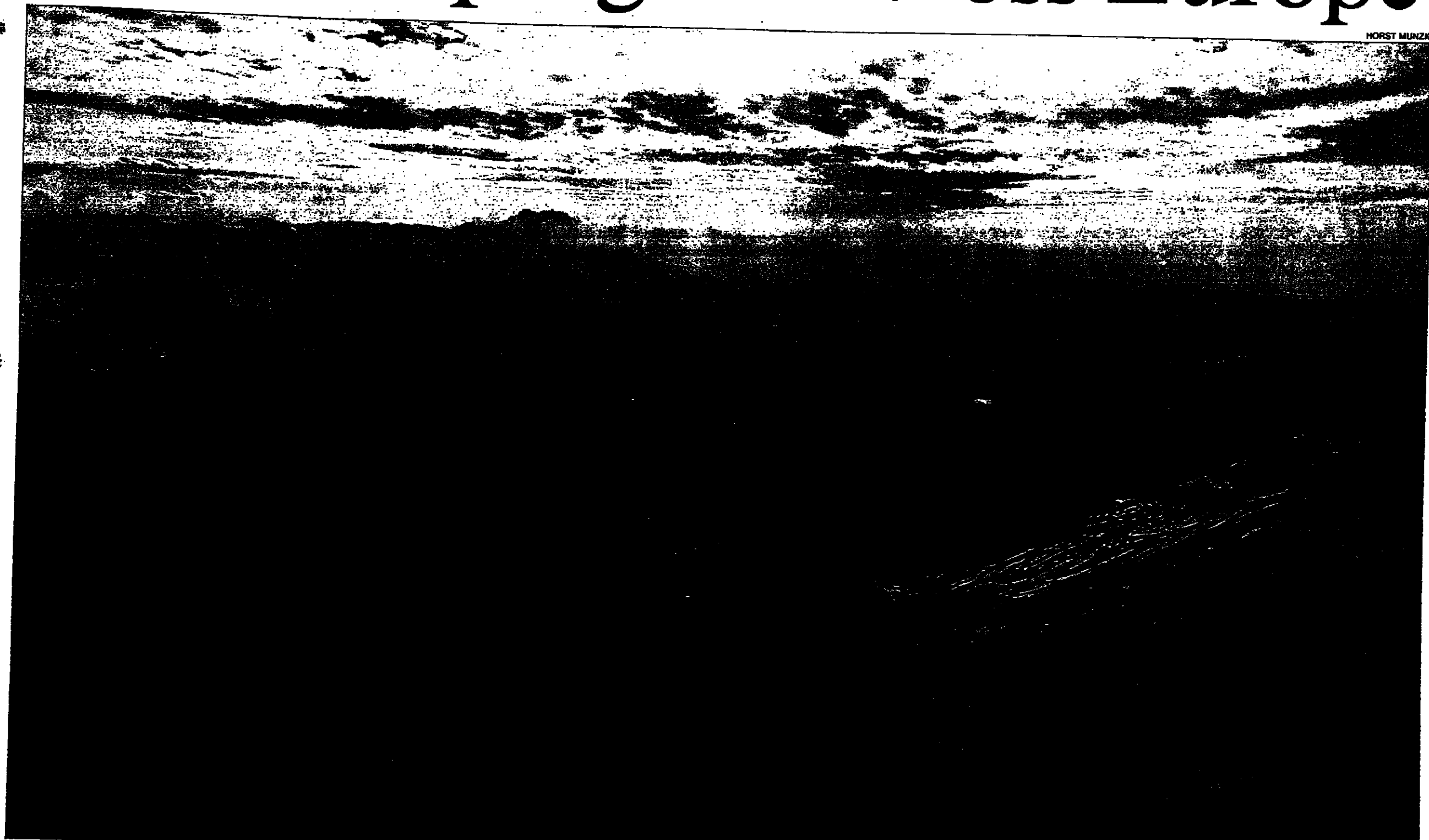
REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19 1988

Pilgrim's progress across Europe

HORST MÜNZIG



Path of enlightenment: in 612 Columbanus, epitome of Irish wandering monks of the Dark Ages, urged his followers over the Alps into northern Italy: "No man shall sleep until he has tired himself enough to sleep on his feet"

Just after dawn on a summer morning in AD 687, a robed figure descended the side of Skellig Michael, an island rock out in the Atlantic. From the summit he trod down the steep irregular levels, moving resolutely, though wary of his foothold; a calm morning, no breeze, not a ripple on the ocean. If seen from the distance he could be picked out, a small moving figure, made conspicuous against the darker surroundings of the rock by his garment of rough off-white wool.

Above, on the summit of the rock, the monks whose raw but devout community he was departing had already been in prayer for some hours, rising at two in the morning for the first of the many daily devotions. Through the oratory window the other rock came into view, a respectful distance from this great monastery crag. The small Skellig whited in the dawn with the flocks and flocks of birds.

He continued his descent to the lower reaches, carrying a small parcel of food, bread wrapped in cloth. As he reached the cove and the water's edge, he looked back up the pathway of his descent and saw another white-robed figure descending more rapidly than he had done — another monk, who would row him ashore.

In the distance the thin line of light marking out the coastline had brightened and the mainland could now be seen clearly. The two men lifted the coracle from the cranny, carried it to the water, set it down and climbed in. Facing the bow, the rower picked up the wooden rowing staves, handed one to the monk behind him and began to work the other.

In the noon sunshine the two men landed on a small beach. The rower held the boat steady until the parcel of food had been lifted clear, took a warm leave with many blessings, and then set off again, back to Skellig Michael. The monk sat down on the sand and began to eat his bread. From this excellent vantage point, the slight haze rendered the two rocks sailing out in the ocean even more mystic. The only noise came from the small waves and larksong behind him, in the empty land, not a sight nor a soul.

The list of Irish monks who evangelized Europe grew so long that their presence in Europe in the 6th and 7th centuries can be counted as a cultural and religious invasion; among them Fridian, who established his monastery in Tuscany at Lucca and became known as San Frediano; Fursey, whose memory is venerated in Pèronne; Kilian, who also travelled along the Rhine and met a violent death in Franconia.

Many retain a place in the liturgical calendars of France, Italy, Switzerland and Germany, as well as their native Ireland. They held on for so long as they

TO RECREATE AN EARLY CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE, FRANK DELANEY SET OUT FROM A TINY IRISH ISLAND MONASTERY, FOLLOWING HIS FICTITIOUS MONK TO SACRED EUROPEAN SITES. THESE ARE SOME OF HIS IMPRESSIONS

could to the liturgy of the Celtic Church in matters such as the tonsure and the timing of Easter, and their influence in the monasteries continued, with reinforcements, for several centuries.

Let us not get carried away with the notion that all those who grew to monkish stature did so out of zeal and the love of God. Many fled life, for reasons of crime or eccentricity, or madness or weakness or other unacceptability, or the liberty to practise psychologically doubtful rituals such as self-denial on a violent scale, or self-inflicted corporal punishment. Some of these early religious came from families who had no place for them, who cast them out, left them to wander and mutter. Others had gone on the run from their own temptations.

High above Ladies' View, the panorama for which people have wanted to buy Killarney, the rain came down across the mountains and blotted out the long light of Tennyson's lakes. Throughout this countryside, early holy men had found riches for themselves in crags and caves and hollows in the mountains, or clearings in the woods.

The life in the stone cells which they scattered through these hills decreed hardship, privation, cold, damp and loneliness. I have been in these mountains at night, in rain, in fog; all notion of hospitality disappears. The black light of the night shines on the lakes and a wind comes down through the

crags and takes the skin off your lips.

Beyond here, going north, the land improves. Five centuries after the death of Christ, the ancestors of this society received the evangelists bringing Latin and the faith which would pervade the island — first Palladius, sent by Pope Celestine to minister to "the Irish who believe in Christ", and later the former slave from Britain, Patrick. They also brought with them Greco-Roman ideas and ethics. Early trade with France encouraged the monastic idea, and when it got well under way, in the 6th and 7th centuries, the system offered much to Irish society: respectability, social stability, a consolidation of the local kingship — since many of the abbots became extensions of the tribe — as well as a source of learning.

The young monks, who filled the monasteries to overflowing, were required to perform the many physical labours of the community — the tending of the animals, the sowing and harvesting — and in the *scriptorium* they made books, needed to further the education of the monks and to add to the worship. These contained sacred writings, scriptures and psalms, in Latin, as well as local and national genealogies and annals of the countryside. Some took the form of plain and direct entries, some became beautifully decorated.

One distinguished strand ran

through their worship. The seeds of Christianity in Ireland had fallen into an earth fertilized by centuries of natural worship. The "pagans" believed in tree gods and water goddesses, in mountains and animals and sunlight. When combined, the new faith and the old belief gave Irish Christianity a unique flavour. East of Tipperary, the road climbs a hill to a wide plain with one, two, three, castles in the distance: Grantstown, Thomastown and the fabulous Rock of Cashel. This castle and church stand on top of a limestone crag and still command the countryside; the modern town only stands and waits. An important place, Cashel of the Kings, a rallying point for the eyes and the hearts of the people of these plains, a place of inspiration and romance. From the Rock of Cashel, the spectacular view alerted the kings of Munster. In the centre of the horizon to the north sits the Devil's Bir mountain, a peak with a chunk taken out. Patrick chased Lucifer down these fields, and when the fleeing demon found a mountain in his way he took a bite and spat it out at Cashel.

In the shadow of the Rock, I had no difficulty whatsoever imagining a monk walking through these fields 13 centuries ago. His welcome was assured: "respect for the cloth" prevails here, and for learning, and for the endeavours of holy pilgrims. Parish excursions leave for Knock, the Marian shrine in the west of Ireland, and flights are chartered to Lourdes. Life around here has changed little — the same landscape, farmed by the descendants of the same people that met Patrick, took him in his word and followed his followers. They had been trained to be practical countryside dwellers, hewers of wood and drawers of water, and to spend hour after hour upon their knees praying to God. The boys' school enjoyed an envied reputation for providing vocations to the priesthood.

Cashel of the Kings, a small town with a tiny population, still prides itself on the royal antecedents, and the wide main street offers glimpses of the stunning Rock and the enchanted limestone complex on top of it. From any angle, in any light, at sunset or at dawn, or floodlit on a rainy night, it fulfils every visual and imaginative impression of the fairy tale Celtic castle, a place of wishes and princes. Magic flutters around the place, in pre-Christian whispers. High on the wall squats a rowdy-faced sheela-na-gig, a randy fertility symbol. Put your arms around the trunk of the cross in the courtyard and you will be free of toothache, forever. Looking back, from a few miles along the Dublin road, the Rock seemed to grow in enchantment through the morning showers and sunshine, a fortress where, typically, the secular and the sacred lived side by side.

Gallus and Columbanus epitomize one breed of the Irish wandering monks in the Dark Ages. They both entered the holy life through a typical Irish route — born of good families, off fat land, from the cleared and populated provinces, they became novices at a typical Irish monastery of the late 6th century. Both men had come from the same community, that of Comgall in Bangor, County Down, on the north-eastern shores of Ireland.

The young Columbanus encountered repeated sexual temptation from the local women: "The old foe raised before him the desires of lewd girls and young women, of a sort whose volup-

tuous bodies and superficial beauty stirred mad lusts in the minds of weak men." Columbanus ran, literally. He left home and entered a monastery in the west of Ireland, and in time progressed east to Bangor and thence, in his mid-forties, to Gaul. Like Columba on his passage to Iona, Columbanus took the archetypal, Messianic 12 followers, and went into exile. Among his dozen was Gallus, a big and awkward man commemorated at the town named after him, St Gallen, in the northern Alps.

In the fields which reach high up above the railway track from Zurich to St Gallen, the early summer harvesting had begun. The mountainside acres, which

might not be expected to yield much, held little bubbles of stacks in a closed circle, not so much hay as high grass. Cattle the colour of grey malt grazed in fields that had no right being as lush on such high foothills; every incline a steep gradient. Occasionally a village church with a dome hinting at the onion-shaped churches of the Balkans, like those on the edge of the Vosges, emerged from the trees.

In the Dark Ages a pathway such as this, which ran like a natural fault, a winding terrace, along the hill, held substantial perils — timber wolves, alpine cats

Continued overleaf



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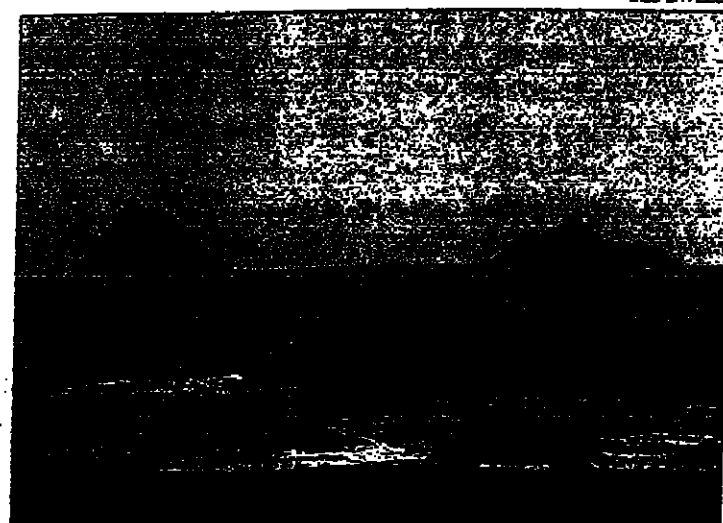
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Rocks of ages: monastic Skellig Michael and the small Skellig

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

STIFTSBIBLIOTHEK, ST GALLEN

Continued from previous page

and bears. Columbanus, walking in similar terrain, reached the mouth of a cave whose inhabitant, a brown bear, menaced him. Columbanus told him off, saying he wanted the cave to meditate in and worship God.

In the Altstadt, by the cathedral, I came to the Gallus-Strasse and the collection of large buildings which stands at the heart and soul of St Gallen — the Stiftsbibliothek, the Abbey Library, a relic of the old Benedictine monastery which Gallus established, now protected by Church and State alike. An usher took my arm and led me back to the corridor outside the library room where, ranged in rows along the floor by the wall, like quiet stalls of small furry animals, lay large slippers, gashaws made of felt, in grey and beige. Patiently he assisted me to slip a pair on over my shoes.

The Library at St Gallen has great beauty, on a par with, say, the Queen's College in Oxford. The surprisingly small room gives an immediate impression of brown, chocolate-and-gilt baroque, in simple rounded designs, bookcases and bulging stacks, all pleasingly harmonized in a honey light, the floor now highly polished by the generations of felt clogs. The only manuscript on view whose work was remotely contemporary with 687 sat in a case in the middle of the floor, catalogued as *Irish Evangelium — geschrieben und gemalt von Iren um 750* — Irish Gospels written and illuminated by Irishmen about 750. As with the great books of the era, the colour bathed the prayers, gentle, lit with rich pigments made from plant dyes and drawn carefully by a loving hand with no long tradition of handwriting or painting.

Gallus should have gone on into Italy over the Alps with Columbanus, but his age and a fever prevented him and he became a hermit, partly in response to the curmudgeonly Columbanus's admonition of him — despite his great age and sickness — for his inability to walk over the mountains. "Equal your equals" became a motto with Columbanus: "No man shall sleep until he has tired himself enough to sleep on his feet." Gallus's punishment for being old and infirm specified that he could never celebrate Mass again during Columbanus's lifetime.

Gallus refused all offers from local potentates of bishoprics or abbacies; a hermit he became and a hermit he stayed, sometimes leaving his hermit's cell to walk and preach through eastern

Switzerland. When Columbanus died in Italy in 615 his monks sent Gallus the pastoral staff, a wooden crozier, which Columbanus had carried, as a sign that Gallus had now been released from Columbanus's curse.

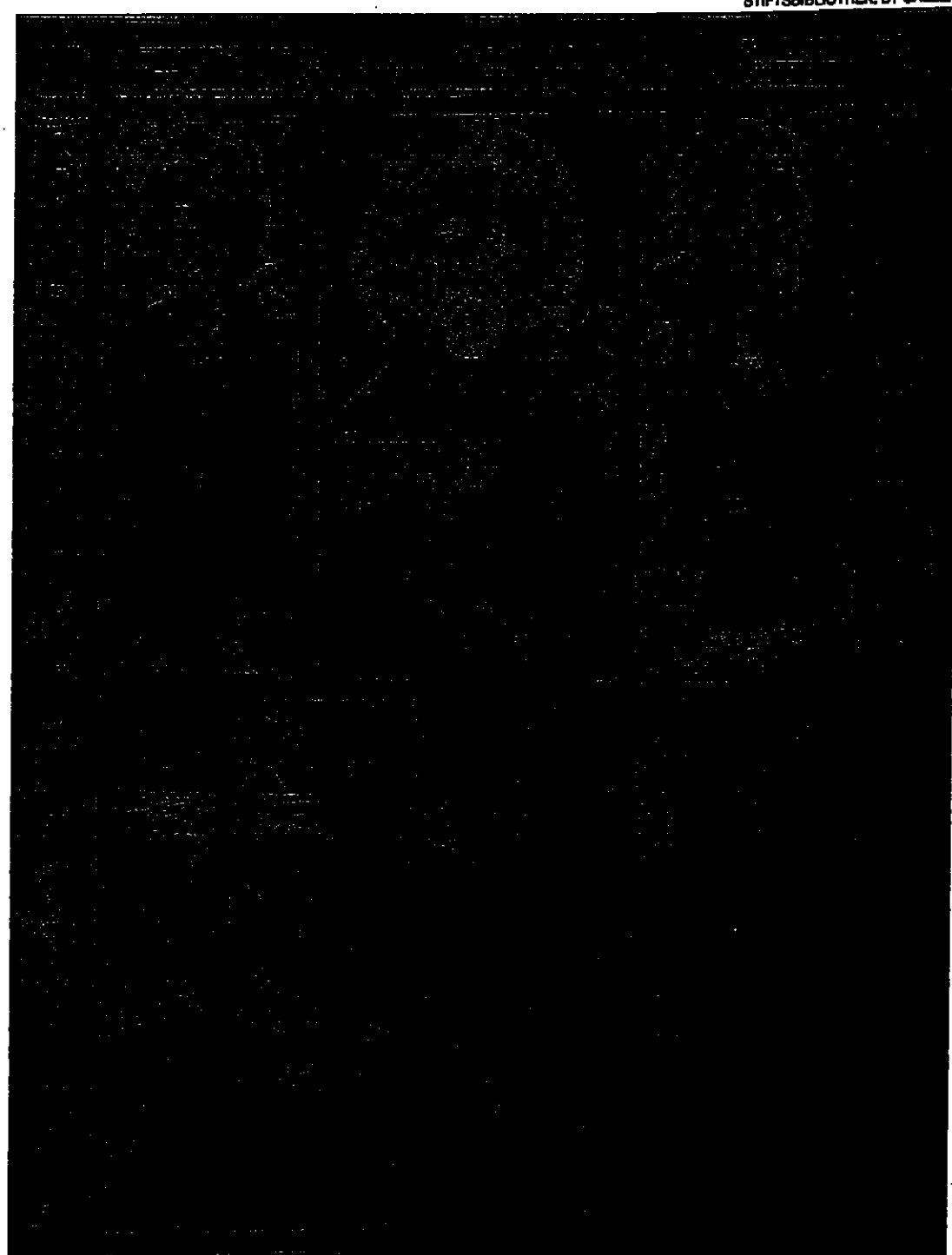
His quieter stature drew many to the place he lived in, and the numbers of pilgrims increased after his death as his reputation grew. His town keeps an awareness of him alive; hymns and songs composed in his honour after his death are displayed in the library.

The thunderstorms in Como last night came straight out of Wagner: long flashes along the lake right upon the huge peals which, as every child knows, means that the storm is raging right overhead. It seemed to travel up and down the lake at will, never leaving and taking off to where it belonged, in the hills and wooded mountains.

Today I stopped for lunch at Desenzano, a village on Lake Garda. The water lapped hard beneath the window, and the view changed as the mist on the lake came and went with the hydrofoil. When a new corner of the far distance appeared, picked out by a tranche of sun which managed to shaft through the midday gloom, the scene turned into an Edwardian engraving — crags appeared and the village on the far shore, with a small campanile and cream houses, looked like a miniature Venice. Now the light moved to another part of the lake and in a tint of mist and ochre revealed another group of houses much further away.

Hilaire Belloc on his *Path to Rome* observed: "If one wanted to give a rich child a perfect model or toy, one could not give him anything better than an Italian lake." The light changed again over the poplars on the little peninsula on the far side and the hydrofoil returned, disturbing the water. The wind had risen further and the old people clutched at their summer hats along the *lungo di lago*. My thin green pasta had been heavily infiltrated by garlic; the local wine had the colour of nutty blood. The sun came out again for the umpteenth time, revealing distant cypresses and houses behind tall walls, a brusque and confident contrast to the hard-edged, muddy survival, the bad-toothed, ill-clad cking endured by the citizens of the Dark Ages.

The light distracts so, even from the exquisite poetry of a local — the Mantuan, Publius Vergilius Maro. A poet's poet: Pope called his *Eclues* "the sweetest poems in all the world"; to Dryden, his *Georgics* were "the best poems of the best poet".



Swiss connection: Christ in Glory from the Irish Evangelium kept in the library at St Gallen

Virgil achieved superstar recognition in his own lifetime, lionized by both plebs and patricians; his verses were found scratched on the walls of Pompeii. He left these parts early, went to Rome and then Campania, but the boyhood spent on the farm near Mantua permanently illuminated his vision. This is still his landscape: the sun flooded it as I drove through, hoping that the monk from the Skelligs had picked up even a snatch of Virgil, perhaps the *Aeneid*.

On a sunlit afternoon, past

those distant brown villages which threaten to spill down the side of their hills, I arrived in the beautiful cobbled place that claims Virgil, the only town I have ever wanted to steal. I prefer the town's Italian name, Mantova. Round a bend in the road a dome appeared, some spires, cinnamon impressions, then a bridge, then a lagoon from which the light rose brightly.

Until this point in his journey, the Dark Ages traveller from Ireland had seen little enough in stone, and then not well-built: the

White House of Ninian in Gallo-way, occasional Roman ruins across Britain, a monastery or two in Ireland or England, overgrown villas of Gallo-Roman luminaries in France, a Merovingian palace rising above the wood and wattle houses of Reims, but nothing which prepared him for the extent and richness of the architecture of the south, of the Adriatic and then the Mediterranean. Mantova began to fill that void.

The cathedral, which enshrines the blood of Christ collected on the cross by the Roman centurion,

'The glories on display in Ravenna certainly bathed the eye of any 7th-century travelling monk'

Longinus, whose spear pierced His side, has been undergoing restoration, and despite the beautiful and monumental coolness does not offer the same opportunities for contemplation as it otherwise might. Outside, the colonnades of the palaces and their courtyards do not urbanize the place so much that you forget the rhythms of the surrounding countryside, the small hills, the light off water.

From Mantova I took the road to Ferrara, a different town altogether, more fortified, more self-conscious, higher and not as humble. Across the meadows beyond Ferrara, standing by the river, the warm terracotta towers of village churches appear, like local jewellery — satellites to the place which has been called the most interesting town in Italy, some say in Europe. Ravenna overwhelms; and the pleasure redoubled for me in the certain knowledge that the glories on display certainly bathed the eye of any 7th-century travelling monk — the basilica of San Vitale had, after all, been consecrated in 548.

Emperor Honorius moved the western imperial capital from Milan to Ravenna in 403; the glories to be seen there today were created over a long period — from the earliest days before Honorius to the high point of Justinian's triumphal empire in the 6th century. Within walking distance of the Piazza del Popolo the compact town holds great treasures — churches, tombs, baptisteries, of which at least five or six stand as greater or smaller wonders of the world, a status attributable wholly to Ravenna's mosaicists. It is wondrous that so much technical expertise and colour could have been available as early as the 5th and 6th centuries: marvellous, too, that patrons existed with sufficient perception to commission the work, even if vanity may have been one of their motives.

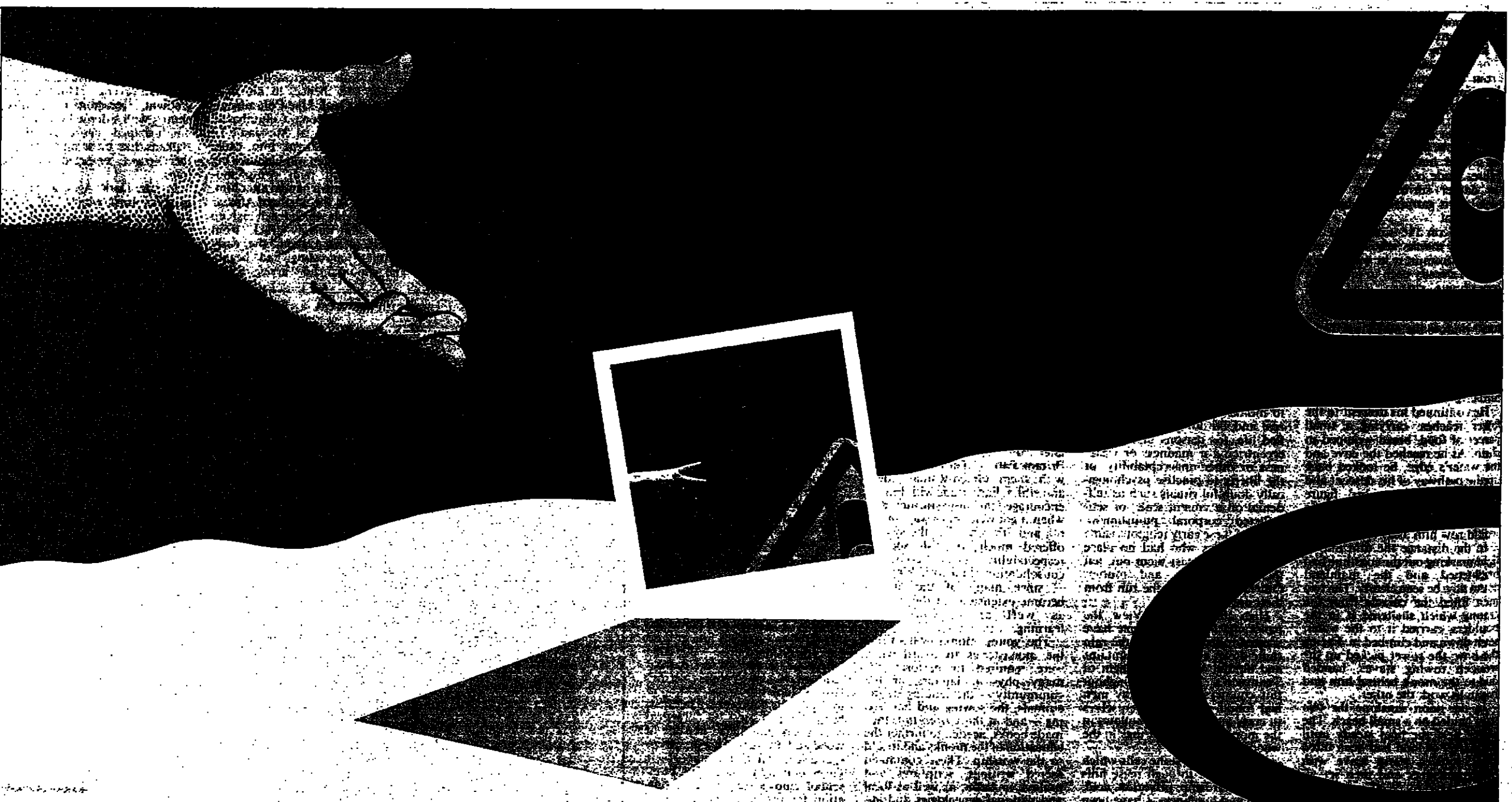
Honorius's death in 410 placed his sister, Augusta Galla Placidia, in command. Captured when the Goths sacked Rome and forced into marriage with a Gothic chieftain, she was restored to her stature in Italy in 416. Now widowed, she fled Ravenna to escape an incestuously inclined dropsical brother. Her uncle in

Constantinople, Theodosius, the Emperor of the East, gave her shelter and then restored her to Ravenna. Here she acted as a protector for a quarter of a century, and during this period the mosaic artists flourished in this ancient town. She died in 450, but in her lifetime a mausoleum was built in Ravenna which followed that spiritual theme of the ideal relationship between the body and the soul — a plain building outside, with the interior most beautifully decorated, in this case with mosaics.

Not a large building — 20 people would fill it beyond comfort, though the arched roof offers breathing space. Two hundred lire in the meter outside give light, and the mosaics are revealed. The cupola of the mausoleum has been schemed as a starry sky, the floor of Heaven. A quartet of figures commands the base of the dome — a man, an ox, a lion and an eagle, the symbols of Matthew, Luke, Mark and John, each resting upon, or rising from, a whisper of red and white cloud. The roof of the entrance to this cruciform building has the traditional shape of a barrel, and it consists of one continuous mass of gold and white flower-stars, crystal-snowflakes on a background of the blue sky of early night. Not a square inch has been left unadorned. The mosaicists covered all the surfaces in a profusion of reds and blues and yellows and greens and browns and whites — primary colours and rainbows and many, many shades and hues, brilliant as well as subtle, all of which might have been mixed yesterday.

Some stone sarcophagi stand on the floor. Even though the mausoleum has been named after Augusta Galla Placidia, the folklore and the history agree that she may have been buried in Rome. This building immortalizes her protectorate and her patronage, and the brilliant interior has the same smell as the beehive huts of the monks of Skellig Michael, a dusty smell of stone.

● A Walk in the Dark Ages by Frank Delaney is published on November 21 by Collins, price £15



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ARTS INTERVIEW

Portrait of a normal virtuoso

How a child crippled by polio and 'just talented enough to make good progress' became one of the greatest violinists in the world — and a campaigner

Itzhak Perlman is living proof of the fact that art is nothing whatsoever like life. "For me, to be boring in life and to be just happy, that's very nice. But you can't be happy and boring in music. You can't be even-tempered when you play the violin."

Perlman is, for many, the greatest violinist in the world, a virtuoso on a par with Heifetz and the most celebrated member of the generation of Jewish musicians known as the "Kosher Nostra" — the others being Mehta, Barenboim, Stern, Ashkenazy and Zukerman. In the United States, television has made his face as familiar as any rock star's and, across the world, his performances produce emotional reactions as fierce as those induced by Luciano Pavarotti or Tina Turner.

He could not look less the part. Seated on a sofa in his London hotel, his chubby face surmounted by tight, curly hair, he wears a luridly striped shirt. His hands are actually shocking: large, white and, apparently, utterly wrong for handling a Stradivarius. His accent is a gruff New York Jewish. Finally, his legs are encased in calipers and his crutches lie on the sofa beside him.

Polio struck soon after music. Perlman was born in 1945 in Israel, the only child of Polish Jewish parents, Chaim and Shoshona. They were poor — Chaim, a Polish immigrant, struggled to make ends meet with a variety of businesses. Israel had one radio station in those days and, at the age of three and a half, Itzhak heard something that interested him. "The radio was on all the time. There was violin music quite often and that attracted me. I just realized: this is it. Why? I don't know... something in the sound was very attractive, it caught my ear."

Soon afterwards, he woke up one morning and told his parents: "My legs won't carry me." He had fallen a victim to the worldwide polio epidemic of 1948-49. His musical ambitions were postponed by a year of illness and convalescence. He was crippled but, now aged five, he could still see no future for himself other than music. After all, as he was to explain over and over again in years to come, "you don't play the violin with your legs."

His parents were encouraging. "They gave me the right kind of attention. It was never a question of saying you can't do this because you walk on crutches. They forced me to practise when I didn't like it — that's just a normal reaction. There is one thing everybody should know, whether you are a disabled child or the parents of one: you have to separate your disabilities from your abilities and never put both in the same category."

The word "normal" crops up repeatedly in his conversation. Even his musical development started out as being no more than "normal". He was playing on Israeli radio by the age of 10 but, he claims, he sounded like many other 10-year-olds. He is anxious to

BRYAN APPLEYARD

MEETS ITZHAK PERLMAN

stress that he was no *wunderkind*. "It was a good, healthy talent, not something unusual, not a storm and a sensation in the music world. A lot of people still tell me about some brilliant 10-year-old they've just heard. I say that's very nice but I would love to wait until they are 18."

"There's so much burn-out that goes on, not just in music but in sports as well. You hear of some tennis sensation and they get to 17 and it's gone. It's a complicated dual problem of success and pressure, and that I didn't have much of. I was just talented enough to make good progress."

The "normal" story, however, becomes a little hard to sustain when he reaches the age of 13. By then he was so good that the entire family emigrated to New York so that Itzhak could study at the Juilliard School. "Whether my parents were sure or not, they believed in me. That is really a very important part of your development. A child can really sense a belief or a lack of belief. There was never a question about whether I was doing the right thing. They went for it, basically."

He was also picked to represent Israel on the Ed Sullivan television show, and to tour the States. At once, of course, in the bright lights of publicity the point was not just the playing, it was the disability. "When I first

future wife with one phrase of Kavel. He was at a Juilliard summer school and had just started playing *Tzigane*. Toby Friedlander heard the first notes, rushed backstage and asked him to marry her. "I just looked and smiled and was incredulous. I was only 17, you know. We married four years later."

They now have five children and live in an apartment in Manhattan and a house in Long Island. With unerring and matter-of-fact certainty, he explains how their home life is underpinned by religion. "We have a traditional Jewish home and we know who we are. I like to know who I am and I think you should act in a way that reminds you who you are. That's really very, very important. Being brought up in Israel... the traditional things you do, the holidays, it's ingrained in you. I don't have any problem with that and, because of the way we run our home, our kids don't have any problem with that either."

Perlman plays about 90 concerts a year — he used to manage 130 but decided it was too much — and he carefully "bunches" his dates to minimize his time away from home; last week he was starting a seven-concert tour of Europe. "I can't understand people who go on tour for pleasure or go on cruises. I just want to go home." There he cooks and watches sport — indeed, his whole lifestyle seems disarmingly casual, very remote from the kind of concentration you expect.

"I'm not one of those people who work as a habit. Luckily you know when work is needed — nobody else does. There's usually three weeks' advance notice. There's some private indicator in your brain — like when you're driving a car and the gas tank is quarter full and you think it's about

concentrate on two things you dilute them." His disability has become a new element in his life. After the initial phase of "human interest stories" his gift began to dispel the sense of novelty. And, as his audience forgot his handicap, so did he. "I reached a point where it was all forgotten. I had achieved what I wanted to do and I actually forgot about my disability. Then I met a very dynamic gentleman — he's a quadriplegic and a lawyer — and he was very into architectural barriers against the disabled and equality. He really got me into this. I realized that now I had accomplished what I wanted, people accepted me for what I was and forgot about my disability, now it was time for me to do something."

So now he complains as a matter of course to airlines, owners of buildings and officials. He is repeatedly misunderstood. Airlines and concert halls jump to help out "Mr Perlman". Ramps are installed and one airline even offered him his own computer program so that he had wheelchair, ramps and assistance automatically whenever he booked. He noted, however, that when he left, the ramps were removed and the booking programmes were not for everybody.

"People always say to me they will do anything I want. They don't understand. I'm talking about a general problem. The other day I went to vote and the voting place was up seven steps. There were a lot of old people in their seventies and eighties — they had a problem getting up those steps. You talk to somebody and their first reaction is 'Perlman needs to get in, we gotta do something about it.' It is understandable. With a musician, especially one of Perlman's stature and physical condition, the gap between art and life is at its most poignantly extreme. Small wonder that a ramp sometimes seems more important for him



Modest maestro: Itzhak Perlman with those unlikely hands, "large, white and utterly wrong for handling a Stradivarius"

than for anybody else. But Perlman himself is carefully reluctant to link the art and the handicap. "Has it affected my work? It's an interesting question. I don't think so. Maybe it has, but I don't think so. There's no way I can know. Maybe I would have had a slightly different childhood if I

had been able to get into sports."

This reluctance to speculate becomes a determination not to analyse his gift too far. The fear, presumably, is of damaging it with self-consciousness. "It's a combination of things. A certain technical gift that you either have or you don't.

But then you have to have a certain concept in your ear of what real music is all about. The way a sound you have in your ear comes out in your hand... this is the most fascinating to me with the violin. It's a very manual instrument, there is very little that is mechanical. You put your

hand up to the string and the rest is up to you. "But that is just the sound. Then there is the thing about what makes music tick — that is so many things: rhythm, tension, spaces, silences and the relationship of silences to non-silences. What does tension mean? How does phrasing go? And then at the very end of it comes individuality."

He speaks rapidly, listing and counting off the technicalities. His sentences are prone to constant revision and extension but seldom reach conclusions, only a kind of benign and helpful summary of what appears to be involved in making the fingers follow the ear. What he is really saying is that he does not know because the lists, however long, do not add up to any one performance. Or, to put it another way, if you listen to Perlman playing the second movement of Mozart's Third Violin Concerto, a great deal more seems to be going on than could be explained by his biography or even by his own explanations. "Individuality" did not catch polio.

So, on the one hand, there is the life: "Boring... boring is the appropriate word. I don't think I have any big traumas, no incredibly amazing events or things like that. I would hope that everything is nice and calm and normal." And, on the other, there is the music: "You ask serious questions in your music. You can be even-tempered in life, but music is a very moving work of art and you have got to bring forth a different range of dynamics and an arrangement of moods. You ask big questions in life too, and there's nothing wrong with being happy and satisfied with what's going on, but not in music."

The real fact of Perlman's handicap and his "normal" heart merely serve to make the point clearer: there is no connection whatsoever between life and art. Art is simply better.

'I don't think I have any traumas'

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THE ARTS

Trinidad Sevellano dances with a maturity that belies her 19 years, says John Percival

Bold staging: Freda Foh Shen and Azizah Hodges in *Marco Millions*

A long tormented journey into life

AMERICAN THEATRE

The centenary of Eugene O'Neill's birth has prompted a paroxysm of celebration, as the American theatre pays tribute to the country's Nobel prizewinning dramatist.

O'Neill's mother, wife of a matinee idol and subsequently the morphine addict her son devastatingly depicted in *Long Day's Journey into Night*, gave birth to him in a Times Square hotel room on October 16.

New York and Connecticut, where he spent his boyhood, have outdone themselves in celebration, but so has San Francisco, where he wrote his last five plays.

We have already enjoyed productions of *Ah, Wilderness!* and *Long Day's Journey* (Berkeley Rep) and of *A Touch of the Poet* and *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (The Magic Theatre). Just So Productions took over a 219ft sailing schooner to put on the four one act plays in the *Glen-cairn* cycle. The Community College undertook the daunting trilogy *Mourning Becomes Electra*. But most ambitious of all, San Francisco's admirable American Conservatory Theatre (ACT) staged a rare revival of the treacherous *Marco Millions*.

This showed extraordinary value: critics, starting with its 1928 world premiere, have often savaged it, but ACT wanted to open its season with an O'Neill tribute of becoming grandeur. One of the world's leading O'Neill authorities, Travis Bogard, lives across



O'Neill: suicidally unhappy

the bay in Berkeley as a professor emeritus at the University of California; he made O'Neill's original version available to director Joy Carlin. She says that the 1928 production cut out "much of the play's spine". The original (which Bogard had excavated in the Library of Congress) contained "two delightful scenes" never produced; with their inclusion, according to Carlin, "it all straightened out; it seemed to find its spine again". She calls this version "a newly discovered O'Neill play that has never been seen before".

In his final years, following a therapeutic psychoanalysis, O'Neill wrote some of literature's greatest dramas, but remained almost suicidally unhappy, in part because the poetic expression to which he aspired continued to elude him. This courageous production of *Marco Millions* reminds us, most of all, of that.

While writing the play, O'Neill wrote to a friend: "I'm tickled silly with it. It's going to be humorous as the Devil if the way it makes me guffaw as I write is any criticism." "Lugubrious, doom-ridden O'Neill guffawing? And over this? That passage evokes the poignant image of a brilliant eccentric chortling over his own wit-cisms while all around exchange compassionate glances.

ACT has risen commendably to a major challenge. From Shanghai's Youth Drama Troupe it has imported artistic adviser Chen Shaoze, costume designer Jovita Chow, and one of China's most celebrated actors, Sun Daolin, who plays Kublai Khan. From its Conservatory it has fleshed out a talented, industrious cast of 41: something present-day Broadway could never afford. Superior sets (Ralph Funicello), opulent costumes, and a few outstanding performances compensate only inadequately, however, for this minor play's shortcomings.

Shortly before O'Neill's death in a Boston hotel in 1953, he looked back: "God damn it — born in a hotel room, died in a hotel room." Life did not treat one of America's greatest writers well.

Paul Moor

Leaping into the limelight

Ever since Trinidad Sevellano joined London Festival Ballet three years ago at the age of 16, it has been obvious that she is a very special dancer. She is already outstanding, not just for her age but on any terms, and is potentially one of the great names of ballet.

The important thing is that she is not just a virtuoso. She can dazzle in a bravura showpiece, but even there her zest and exuberance do as much as her technical brilliance. There is always meaning to her dancing.

With Festival Ballet she has danced a wide range of roles, including Ashton's Juliet, Cranke's Olga in *Olegin*, Balanchine's *Symphony in C*, most of the old classics, and creations by Christopher Bruce, Michael Clark and Kevin Haigen.

Tonight and next week she is dancing in *Swan Lake* at Manchester and Bristol; then Basilidon and Bury St Edmunds will see her with Festival Ballet's small touring team in showpiece extracts from *Bourgeoisville* and *Petipa*.

All the same, to play her first specially-created three-act leading role, she had to take leave from Festival Ballet and go back to her native Spain as guest star with the National Ballet of Caracas at the Madrid Autumn Festival.

Sevellano's performance in the title role of *George Sand* was a tremendous achievement. The ballet begins with an adolescent girl being squabbled over by her mother and autistic grand-mother, and ends (three acts and nearly three hours later) with her death at almost 72. At every moment Sevellano convinces you that this is how Sand could have been.

It has to be said that, from what happens on stage, you would never guess this woman to have been a prolific, highly-gifted novelist, playwright and journalist.

Inevitably, perhaps, the action of the ballet confines itself to two aspects of its heroine's life: her disregard for convention, symbolized by her sometimes dressing as a man, and the series of relationships that brought her an unhappy marriage, two children and a series of friends and lovers.

The choreography of this ambitious ballet is by the Caracas company's artistic director, Vicente Nebreda, the libretto by his general director, Elias Perez Borjas, and the music is made up from pieces by two of Sand's most famous friends, Chopin and Liszt.

There have been plenty of other ballets lately which cobbled together a score from shorter works, and a few which drew on more than one composer. Also there is no disputing the aptness of these particular composers, nor of most of the pieces chosen, assembled and arranged by Federico Ruiz with help from several hands. But the transitions are sometimes cruel and the orchestration often crude.

On the other hand, the ballet looks good, thanks to handsome costumes by Christina Giannini and simple but striking décor by Rafael Reyeros: often no more than a doorway, windows or big flower urn seen against black background, enabling quick transitions from one theme to another.

Nebreda's choreography makes effective use of repetitions: a motif, for instance, of the heroine torn between two affections, and another of her resisting manipulation by those around her. The entries for the *corps de ballet* are competent but uninspired, especially when they have no real dramatic motivation and are merely to cover a costume change by the principals.

However, he has made half-a-dozen good roles besides the central one, all well taken. From the Caracas company, Mari Carmen Catoya and Slavio

Exuberant: Trinidad Sevellano (also inset) as Odette in London Festival Ballet's production of *Swan Lake*

Olivares particularly stand out for their sympathetic playing and excellent dancing as Sand's children. The complicitous smile of Teresa Padron, as Sand's actress friend Marie Dorval, and the impetuosity of Carlos Tapia as de Seze, Sand's first lover, also make an impression.

The other leading roles are taken by guests. Santiago de la Quintana, tall and handsome, ardent and responsive, gives strong support as de Musset, and Koen Onzia as Chopin matches Sevellano in passion and subtlety.

All the same, the triumph of the evening is emphatically Sevellano's. There are no big histrionics in her playing, everything is very quietly done, yet every moment becomes vivid.

She can convey more with a

smile, a turn of the head, a simple extension of one hand, than most people can in the most elaborate set pieces of acting.

She makes the character mature not by elaborate make-up but mainly by a change in the way she walks and moves. Her timing and emphasis always look exactly right. So when she dances, especially in the series of contrasted duets that run through the ballet as its dramatic heart and justification, she makes every gesture tell.

The role is exceptionally demanding in its length (she seems hardly to leave the stage except to change costumes), in the many twists and turns of the choreography, in being always the focus of the action, and in having to equal the energy of each new

partner just arrived fresh on the scene.

But no sign of any difficulty ever shows to distract from the absolute conviction of her performance.

Unfortunately there is no immediate likelihood of *George Sand* being seen in Britain. After a tour in Spain it has gone into temporary abeyance. However, there have already been negotiations about possibly taking it to Paris and New York, and London would be another logical stop on any international tour (provided that a theatre can be found, since we are not well endowed in that respect).

What is certain is that wherever it is seen it will be recognized as another step in Sevellano's apparently unstoppable progress to the top.

Diane Hill reports on the Festival d'Automne à Paris, and the man who founded it 16 years ago

Where masses make way for the minority

The Festival d'Automne à Paris, created as a stage for works of minority appeal, is one of the most adventurous events on the European contemporary arts calendar. Never meant for the masses, it has nevertheless blossomed, since its inception in 1972, from a dozen works spread over four weeks into a three-month event whose international programme this year lists 30 productions. These include Peter Stein's *Three Sisters*, Zadek's *Lulu*, a Chekhov double bill by the Moscow Art Theatre, a new play by Koltès directed by Chéreau, world premieres of new musical works by Stockhausen and Messiaen (the latter conducted by Boulez), and a dance trio by Cunningham with music by Cage.

The festival, running from the end of September until the New Year, a cornucopia of major foreign productions, performed in their native tongues, and premieres of new French productions of contemporary works.

Avant-garde rather than fringe, the festival owes its existence to Michel Guy and the enlightened complicity of former French President Georges Pompidou. Guy, who was artistic director of the Festival International de la Danse à Paris from 1964 to 1971, founded the Festival d'Automne, drawing in the dance festival and an existing music festival.

"In the Sixties, France was settling into self-satisfaction, feeding off the innovative fruits of the pre-war years and the *nouvelle vague* of the Fifties," Guy recalls. "Creatively stifled, many talented people began to leave France. Béjart, for example, chose to work in Belgium, Boulez in Germany."

Performers blossom under Guy. Robert Wilson and Merce Cunningham were virtually unknown in Europe before their work became a regular feature of the festival. "It is important to invite people several times. For years Cunningham was met by tomatoes. Today he is acclaimed. Wilson performed in front of a handful of people. Now he fills a theatre."

The programmes over the past 16 years read like a dictionary of the contemporary performing arts: Arias, Blin, Foreman, Gruber, Kantor, Langhoff, Petit, Strehler, Tudor, Vitez, Xenakis... a seemingly never-ending ribbon of names, they represent a very personal choice. For it is with Guy that the final content of the programme always rests. He enjoys talent-spotting, and is not afraid of taking chances or making mistakes. Guy relinquished the festival reins only once (to Alain Crombeque, now director of the Avignon Festival), to be Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture from 1974 to 1976.

Guy, who for 20 years headed the horticultural group Guy Charon, fully appreciates the fertilizing properties of money. For this year's festival he has at his disposal some FF20.5 million: eight million from the State, two-and-a-half million from the city of Paris, three million from sponsors, plus ticket sales.

He is also an avid traveller whose recent journeys to Russia and Germany have given this year's festival a distinct Prussian flavour. Framed in the cavernous splendours of the Chailor's main stage, Moscow Art Theatre's *The Seagull*, directed by Oleg Yefremov, is visually stunning. The direction nicely captures the work's theatricality by playing the key speeches in the artfully lit proscenium arch of a crumbling gazebo.

Andrei Konchalovsky's French production of *The Seagull*, part of Strehler's Théâtre de l'Europe season earlier this year, succeeded in bringing out the vacuous nature of characters by injecting a frivolous vivacity. Yefremov's direction, by comparison, is rigorously Chekhovian, decidedly staid, with scarcely a hint of the Stanislavskian illusion of reality.

The set for *Uncle Vanya*, a massively gliding, opening and closing, comfortable country house design, is a credit to Soviet technology and a marvel for a world-touring production. Within this realistically solid décor, Yefremov's style of direction gains flesh and blood. The frustration of Chekhov's family of unfulfilled dreamers, trapped helplessly within their own failings, comes over hot and strong.

Yefremov takes the role of Astrov in true Stanislavsky style and turns in a fine performance, successfully giving a modern environmentalist's edge to the doctor's concern for Russia's



Michel Guy: he enjoys talent-spotting and is not afraid of mistakes

diminishing forests. There is, for all that, a perceptibly dated feel to the whole production, the source of which would seem to be a state of mind, not of design.

Stein's Schaubühne production of *Three Sisters*, is the pièce montée of the festival. It is undoubtedly the best piece of foreign theatre to have come to Paris for many a long season. There is no simultaneous translation: there is no need. Stein's direction uses a universal language that crosses all frontiers, interpreted by a company for whom acting is not a profession but life itself.

The audience is drawn into the world on stage, more real than reality, like Alice through the looking glass. Once inside the proscenium arch, the concrete no-man's land of suburban Paris is forgotten. We are part of the Prozorov family, participating in the dreams of three sisters.

All is perfection: the aptness of the period costumes, the exactness of the rambling country house interior, the breathtaking splendour of the garden scene in the last act, with its towering forest of stark trunks, and the superb

lighting design, which re-creates summer and bathes winter in the warmth of candleglow.

Encircling these international gemstones is a host of homegrown avant-garde productions. One of the first to open is *Le Criminel*, directed by Claude Régy. This pushes audience endurance to its furthest limits.

Against the hypnotic narration of a prose poem by Leslie Kaplan, Régy conjures up a slow-motion parade of phantoms who pass silently across the acting area of the Bastille (no relation to the controversial new opera house),

which has been stripped back to the plumbing for the occasion.

All but motionless, wisps of characters bring on a chair, carry it away, take off their clothes, put them on, bring on a potato, peel it, tidy it away, and so on, for more than three long, slow hours. This draining experience requires a stoic effort, to join Régy in his quest of recent years to speak through silence and reach the deepest pits of imagination through immobility. It is easier to close the eyes and listen to Kaplan's haunting text, written after a stay in a residential psychotherapy group.

This year's "Prussian" theme includes a handful of French adaptations of works by the Austrian writer, Thomas Bernhard. *Minetti* is an uncomfortable drama about an ageing actor who, 30 years previously, brought to an end a celebrated career by refusing to play "classical literature". All this time, to keep his hand in, he has played *King Lear* once a month in front of a mirror. We find the impeccable Minetti in a bare backstage half-world, guarded by a hag and a dwarf, where he waits in vain for a rendezvous with a theatre director, who has telegraphed him a request to play.

Astutely directed by Joël Jouanneau with the bilingual British actor David Warrillow brilliantly portraying Minetti, it is a work that takes you by the nose, which it rubs in your own incomprehension, irritates your intelligence to distraction, then screams at you for being a philistine.

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Musical
CHALLENGE

Five music-filled days in New York for two people and a full £1,100 set of the magnificent 20-volume *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* are the first prize in a competition on *The Times Arts Page* next week.

The trip to New York includes flights and accommodation at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, on 42nd Street in midtown Manhattan, with tickets to two events, Plácido Domingo in *Aida* at the Metropolitan Opera House, and a gala evening with Marilyn Horne and friends at the newly restored Carnegie Hall.

The second prize is another full set of the *New Grove* — acknowledged to be the world's most thorough compendium of musical scholarship. The result of 10 years' work by an international team of 2,300 contributors, it ranges over the entire history of music in 22,500 articles (more than 20 million words).

Three further runners-up will each receive their choice of either the *New Grove Dictionary of Jazz*, the *New Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments*, or the *New Grove Dictionary of American Music* — published by Macmillan Press at £225, £295 and £395.

The Times New Grove Musical Challenge will be a straight-forward quiz, set by the editor of the *New Grove*, Stanley Sadie. The 25 questions will appear in batches of five from Tuesday to Saturday.

Music by the volume

Jazz on a silver screen

Bird, the story of Charlie Parker, opens next week. Russell Davies traces its ancestry



Jazz legends: Paul Whiteman and his orchestra in *King of Jazz*, released in 1930, and Forest Whitaker as Parker in *Bird*, opening next week

First, Bertrand Tavernier comes up with *Round Midnight*, a composite fiction with intelligent things to say about the jazz life, the obsessiveness of hero-worship, and the traditional hospitality of Paris to art. Then Clint Eastwood, of all people, makes our day by creating the feature film portrait of Charlie Parker, *Bird*, which will open in the West End next week. Two discussable jazz films in the same decade! Truly this must be the golden age of the genre.

A touch of ingrate cynicism is historically inevitable, I'm afraid. Jazz enthusiasts have earned the right to curl their battered lips, for they have suffered long — since at least 1930, when Universal's *The King of Jazz* appeared. All the future frustrations of the jazz movie business are adumbrated by this early Technicolor extravaganza. As a musical revue it has its moments, for its stars the Paul Whiteman Orchestra, were experienced in all-round entertainment, and could boast, in Willie Hall, a proto-Hoffnungian musical crackpot of great virtuosity. But as ill-luck would have it, the shooting took place not long after the alcoholic Bix Beiderbecke had taken leave of absence from the trumpet section, so the film is not even for the briefest moment the shrine to doomed genius that it might have been.

Nor, of course, was Paul Whiteman the King of Jazz. But his publicists said he was, and the Hollywood studios took the hint. They continued to do so. Any top white bandleader with a saleable slogan, however personally inappropriate (Tommy Dorsey, the "Sentimental Gentleman of Swing" was a brute), became potential bio-pic material; and the jazz movies that were duly made in this corny old mode are probably still the best-known of all.

Particularly insulting, to audience and participants alike, is the use made of black Americans in these movies. It would be bad enough if they were merely black actors, but often they are musical figures of high repute, doing

cameo work to assuage the producer's guilt and spice up the cast-list for those in the know. As like as not, you will get an early scene in which little Benny Tommy/Glenn is practising his clarinet/ocarina/serpent by an open window somewhere in the genteel Garden District of New Orleans. Outside, an impromptu choir of black yard boys and washerywomen is rendering "Go Down Moses". From the way little Benny/Tommy/Glenn's specs must over as he joins in, you just know that he is always going to have "that feeling" in his playing, indeed, Agatha, the black maid, will tell him so: "Why, Master

Whosis, that sho is pretty, you wanna work on that thing, you could really go places." And she resumes dusting the knick-knacks, muttering under her breath (for she is played by Billie Holiday) a brief monosyllabic which may begin with "sh".

A couple of scenes later, you will see our hero, attired for the first time in long trousers, sneaking into the rough and ready *bolle* where the legendary Wild Man Boot-black, played by an obliging Louis Armstrong, is making music. The kindly Wild Man allows little Whosis to sit in with the band — a compliment that will be returned 17 scenes later, when Benny/

Tommy/Glenn is on stage at Carnegie Hall and spots the Wild Man digging his sometime protégé from the front row of the stalls.

They sing a number together — probably "Shine" — after which the story, having established who is now top of the tree and who is being patronized, may draw to a contented close.

Four whole decades of recorded music had gone by before filmmakers could trust themselves simply to point a camera at jazz and let it happen. On a small scale, and on the cheap, it had been done — in short subjects, and in the juke-box "soundie" films which, ratty as they are, constitute our

sole visual record of some outstanding artists. In 1944, Gjon Mili momentarily raised expectations with his *Jammin' the Blues*, where the great Lester Young is seen in motion; but Mili was an art-photographer at heart, and the music (mimed) is sacrificed to the essay-in-black-and-white aspect of his little movie. (At that, it was an immensely honourable undertaking compared to the contemporaneous *Jam Session* feature, in which the black members of Charlie Barnett's mixed-race band were substituted on screen — not on the soundtrack, of course — by white actors.)

All of which goes some way to

explain why Bert Stern's account of the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival, *Jazz On A Summer's Day*, seemed to promise a new era in jazz movies. At least the music was the main event, and not an offstage flavouring (as Newport had been just a couple of years before, in the Cole Porter-scored musical *High Society*). Such misgivings as were voiced at the time about Stern's film centred on the featured presence in it of Chuck Berry, who was correctly identified by connoisseurs as the thin end of a wedge that would shortly drive jazz out from its already insecure niche in the public's affections.

Nowadays, though, it's not Berry but the inconstancy of Stern's camera that infuriates. Thelouious Monk, for example, with his shades and enigmatic piano-prodding, was presumably thought to be visually dull, which is why Stern cuts away so much in order to enjoy the spectacle of some yachts dawdling across the sparkling bay. Now that Monk is gone, every irrelevant bellow and spinnaker makes you grind your teeth in impotent rage.

If film-makers' tact has shown a gradual improvement since then, it is largely because jazz has ceased to embody a social threat. With the passing of the first-generation innovators, the fear has gone that jazz is in the hands of dangerous men who might at any moment steer the history of the music in undesirable directions. Besides, whatever naughtiness jazz was once felt to promote have now been spectacularly overtaken by the evils generally available in urban society. So for the crimes it never actually committed, jazz has been forgiven, and its perpetrators may be contemplated with equanimity. Its former bad boys are now old men, to be treasured at their cosy reunions like the one immortalized in the aptly-titled *Last of the Blue Devils*. There is a sense in which every jazz movie made, from now on, should carry the phantom subtitle "Now It Can Be Told — A Little Bit Too Late".

THE TIMES
ARTS DIARY

No credit where due

A damaging new rumour about attempts by the beleaguered Greater London Arts Association to reform itself could cost the association dear. A secret report, commissioned by the Arts Council, from accountants Arthur Young, accuses GLA of "weak management" and a complex structure of committees which "rehash" one another's decisions. While its proposals to streamline things have already been welcomed by the Arts Council, GLA's other major funder, the British Film Institute, is far less happy with the document.

The reason for BFI's dissatisfaction, strongly expressed at a recent meeting, is simple: despite giving an annual grant of more than £300,000, the report carries no mention of the GLA's responsibility to the BFI. Barry Ellis Jones, BFI acting deputy director, says it wants to continue backing GLA: "But if they come back to us and say that the structure they want doesn't allow them to deal with film in a way that is accountable to us, then we would have to look at our grant again." Footnote: GLA director Trevor Vibert is a BFI governor.

French with tears

Eavesdrop from the first night of *Manon* at the Royal Opera House this week. As Massenet's heroine, exposed as a whore, is dragged from the stage to her final degradation, a venerable opera-goer observes to her husband: "She's no better than she ought to be." Husband (reflective): "French, of course."

Front line artists

Comments here last week by my colleague Stephen Games, about the under-representation of British artists in the Oxford Museum of Modern Art exhibition of work by artists killed in the Great War, prompts a reader to wonder what happened to the endeavours of the Artists Rifles. The regiment, formed in 1888 for Royal Academicians, fought at Passchendaele.



Famous victim: Wilfred Owen. The explanation for the absence of their work from the show, says Armistice Festival director Tim Cross, is that by 1914 membership of the Artists Rifles was not confined to artists. Although a few artists lost their lives, including F. E. Crisp, the most famous member in that period was a poet, Wilfred Owen. The under-representation by British artists is due to the War Office policy of asking potential war artists out of the front line.

Coffee table arts

Congratulations to the Arts Council on its lavish new annual report, surely the first time it has thought it necessary to produce the usual pages of figures and facts in coffee table format. The cost to taxpayers of this bold marketing decision, I understand, is £65,000 — more than twice last year's bill.

In deep water

As visitors to David Hockney's exhibition at the Tate will discover, Hockney is the world's greatest swimming pool painter. And not just on canvas. Last year he painted a mural on the bottom of a pool in Hollywood — and nearly lived to regret it. California health inspectors uncovered a local law that bans swimming pools from bearing designs that look like swimmers. lest they confuse the lifeguards. The complaint led to a fierce artistic debate: were Hockney's squiggles representational or abstract, curved parentheses or, as the inspectors claimed, small children lying as if drowned in focal posture? In the end a friendly politician passed a bill to allow the pool to be exempted from the law. "An example of Hollywood's creative forces coming together to achieve grandeur and grace".

Andrew Billen

The cartoonist's farewell to Ron

Some people find it more difficult than the Prime Minister to understand the rhyme or reason of President Reagan's remarkable success as the Great Communicator. He can say his lines with the fluent assurance of a professional actor; but he is equally adept at bumbling incoherence, slips of the tongue, and confusions of such minor details as fact and fiction.

This great inconsistency in linguistic performance is comparable to some of the aphasic patients Colin Blakemore showed us in Tuesday's fascinating *The Mind Machine* (BBC2). History is yet to decide whether, like some sufferers from speech defects, the President's rational understanding of certain important distinctions is unimpaired despite his difficulties in voicing them.

Satire, however, has already made up its mind. *Spiriting Image's* recent, merciless, valuations for the President was followed last night by *Rap Master Ronnie* (BBC2), written by Gary Trudeau, creator of the *Douglas* cartoon strip, and Liz Swados. It starred the excellent Jim Morris as the President.

Neither programme saw much reason in his tongue giving words the slip. What was different about *Rap Master Ronnie's* speech problems, though, was that they were in rhyme.

Rhyme has been considered by some to be the enemy of reason. (After writing 12 books of blank verse for *Paradise Lost* Milton declared it "the invention of a barbarous age".) But it can also be a means by which reason gives

TELEVISION

language a more coherent form; and *Ronnie's* neatly phrased opening rap soon gave way to slicker musical sketches (all performed with great fluency and flair). The sketches aspired in their verbal dexterity and timely wit to the heyday of American musical theatre in which the precise use of words was all important.

The Great Communicator's success, however, has been due not just to a considered imprecision of language but to his ability to convince many regardless of what he has exactly said. "A tape recorder is much less potent a weapon against him than against Nixon." Even though he is an old Hollywood star, it was perhaps not so appropriate to make such a song and dance of him.

England is always being beaten at its own game by cricketers from the former colonies, but in the amusing film *Western Approach* (BBC2), made by Miles Kingston about the Australian aborigine cricket team's match against the little Channel Island of Alderney, the home side seemed to possess as much cricketing skill as their former German occupiers. (Most of the team were old enough to have been occupied.)

The aborigines looked and played like an Australian Test side, except, as local guru John Arlott pointed out, they were too polite.

Andrew Hislop

CONCERT

Soothing songs for troubled times

Gothic Voices
Wigmore Hall

Neatly anticipating the 800th anniversary next year of the crowning of Richard the Lionheart, Gothic Voices turn in this early Music Network touring programme of Anglo-French music from the time of the Crusade. The music they have chosen, most of it anonymous, is wide ranging, though much of it can be dated with reasonable certainty to a single period of a few years. Once again the team of Margaret Philipot, John Mark Ainsley, Rogers Covey-Crump and Leigh Nixon sing with meticulous blend and delicious refinements of expression, while Christopher Page, according to form, ties the whole programme together with his affably delivered, pertinent commentary, broken up with snippets from contemporary writing.

The mix of genres is also resourceful. Most of the songs here are in the *conductus* form, where the parts (there are more than one) progress note-against-note and where the word setting resists melisma, save for the occasional elaborated cadence — for instance in the two part "Sol Sub Nube Latuit". Philipot gives a "solo conductus", "Anglia, planctus iterum" with her usual eloquence and purity of tone, and bestows the same qualities on two exquisite *trouvère* songs, Gace Brule's "A la douceur de la belle saison" and Blondel de Nesle's "Ma Joie me semont". Ainsley, meanwhile, shows equally meticulous control in another example of the *trouvère's* art, Li Chastelain de Couci's "Li nouveus tens", in which the composer touchingly contemplates his travel to come.

Spice, in the form of musical complexity, is provided by a selection of polytextual motets which includes the moralistic outburst "Hypocrite pseudopontifices", the romantic "Je m'en vais" and the roistering "En mai quant rosiert", all for three voices, all paced carefully, and all balanced with an ear for maximum lucidity. There is also the hybrid "Latex siliice", a three voice *conductus* with a fourth motet like voice added to harmonically striking effect. Politics at the time may have been turbulent; but Page and his troop show that music at least was decidedly sweet.

Stephen Pettitt

The outcast's revenge

THEATRE

The Visit
Almeida

Conceived in disgust at Germany's post war boom, Durrenmatt's masterpiece makes a timely return in the age of Britain's economic miracle.

Not seen in London since Peter Brook's 1958 version, *The Visit* also supplies the Théâtre de Complicité with a superb pretext for their first text-based show. The fable of the aged Clara Zachmann's revengeful homecoming to the town that drove her out as a pregnant teenager, it is essentially a company drama. The multi-millionaire marks down her treacherous lover, Alfred, and offers his impoverished fellow citizens a fortune in return for his death. After which she has only to retire to the balcony of her hotel and watch the virus of greed taking its course. With her retinue of cripples and hoodlums, Clara is one of the most exotically sinister capitalist monsters ever devised, but the play's real hatred is directed against the worthy mediocre townsfolk, who start piling up luxury goods on credit while protesting eternal friendship

The Victorian girls of the title worked in the gutting sheds of the slaughterhouse at Deptford Cattle Market, a rough and, um, gutsy crowd, unashamed to drink beer at the local pub.

Sarah Daniels has written a play that follows the feminist line in praising the independence of these women, more in command of their lives than the millions of their sisters in domestic service. Daniels indicates the adventures of five girls whose comradely way of life is smitten by economic change (refrigerated ships that put the animals overseas) and by charitable women of the superior

to the cornered Alfred, and finally swoop on him and collect their bloodmoney in the name of justice and Christian conscience.

Durrenmatt wrote it as a choric piece even using the chorus as trees for Clara and Alfred's woodland rendezvous. In Annabel Arden's production, plastic invention develops equal importance with the text. You get the full impact of the Complicité style in the opening, railway station scene where each passing express sends the company reeling across the stage as if in the blast of a hurricane; simultaneously the marvellously individualized chorus, from Lilo Baur's diminutive Arthur Askey-like painter to Richard Hope's slovenly overbearing Mayor, projects the terminal apathy of the Guellien (dungtown)

The Gut Girls
Albany Empire

classes who expose them to needlework and Bible reading. She is even prepared to admit that market forces affect male workers, too, though only one of her six men is even halfway decent.

When unemployment forces her heroines to choose between the streets and the perils of domestic service, the author's tone becomes uncertain, divided between condemnation of late Victorian exploitation and something akin to nostalgia for the glory of the

community. Thereafter they undergo whirlwind transformations, into Clara's black-spectacled bodyguard, a balletic press corps, and as furies simultaneously embodying Alfred's guilty nightmare and Clara's dream of vengeance. Throughout, they excel in the use of movement to contradict verbal statements.

Kathryn Hunter's Clara is an awesome figure of maimed glamour dragging herself across the set on milk-handled crutches, and up to the summit of a ladder in a vast wedding dress; her voice grating with imperious decision from a ruined body. Simon McBurney's Alfred, in crumpled suit and greased hair, lives mainly in his deep-sunken eyes which change successively from rat-like cunning to spectral terror and resignation. In a piece that sets no limit to human corruption, their final scene — executioner and victim briefly recapturing their uncorrupted youth — gets its full due as an emotional master stroke.

Irving Wardle

gutting sheds. She writes good short speeches, essentially monologues, into which the sorrows of a woman's lot are angrily compressed. But I do not trust her ear for Victorian slang, nor her feeling for their rigid class distinctions. But the play, and production by Teddy Kendall, contain interesting social details (not least the contraceptive use of sausage skins). The five girls who steer their performances from comradeship into domestic isolation are Janet Steel, Eve Bland, Gillian Wright, Joanna Mays and Cathy Shipton.

Jeremy Kingston

11 July 1899, a group of aristocrats and wealthy entrepreneurs founded a company to indulge their passion for motor racing. F.I.A.T. - Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino - grew to be a world leading diversified industrial group. This major exhibition traces Fiat's growth across land, sea and air from priceless early models, to the technology of the '90s and beyond, reflecting the application of art and design.

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23 November 1988 - 31 March 1989
The Science Museum,
Exhibition Road, London SW7
Monday to Saturday 10.00-18.00
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RECORDS

Foreboding of time ticking away

CLASSICAL

Mahler: Symphony 1
BPO/Haitink, Philips 420 936-2
(compact disc)
Bruckner: Symphony 6
BPO/Muti, EMI CDC 7 49408-2
(compact disc)
Bartók: Concerto for Orchestra
OSM/Dutoit, Decca 421 443-2
(compact disc)
Beethoven: Symphonies Nos 1
and 7 North German RSO/Wand,
EMI Deutsche Harmonia Mundi
CDC 7 49622-2 (compact disc)
Beethoven: Symphony 3
Orchestra of the 18th
Century/Bruggen, Philips 422
052-2 (compact disc)

The 12-second silence at the beginning of Bernard Haitink's new recording of Mahler's first symphony with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra sets the scene perfectly for the refined, poised account, not without its drama, that follows. Perhaps Haitink misses something of the rawness in this music — the barking of the stopped horns in the second movement, for instance, do sound just a little polite — but the BPO's crispness adds much compensation, while the notorious double bass solo in the slow movement has an entirely apt remoteness with its dry tone quality, and the tonic-dominant oscillations of the bottom line here convey a sense of time ticking away for all of us with an atmosphere of ominous foreboding.

Riccardo Muti's recording with the same orchestra for EMI of Bruckner's sixth symphony (a

work which suffers less from the vagaries of second thoughts and interfering advisers than most symphonies by Bruckner) shows this conductor at what is perhaps the ideal time of his career, midway between the spirit of youth and the wisdom of old age. His view suits the piece: it flows along with neither a neurotic urgency nor any complacency. There is a great deal of space in the performance, and also a feeling of something massive being uncovered step by step, as if the music were in direct lineage with, say, Sibelius's seventh symphony.

In the BPO Muti has at his command, of course, a well-matched ideal ensemble for Bruckner, the woodwind and brass rounded to perfection, it occasionally a little too self-conscious of their prominence in solo passages (there is a hideously tremulous solo flute in the first movement); and the strings are both sturdy and sweet. If one were to nit-pick, one might criticize the slightly hesitant beginning of the otherwise magnificently broad slow movement,

much beneath the surface here, both in the work itself and in this interpretation of it. It is good to hear the OSM sound so well in music outside the French repertoire, in which they have become specialists. There is also a substantial bonus on this disc in the form of Bartók's Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste of 1936, a piece of just as much intellectual ingenuity and inspiration as the concerto. There is a wonderfully aromatic, mysterious slow movement, with its very timpani glissandi and enveloping muted strings in this performance, while the second and last movements both go with a real swagger. Decca's engineers have as usual captured well the warmth of the

but really there are no reasons for ignoring this fine, and naturally recorded, account of one of this composer's most convincing pieces.

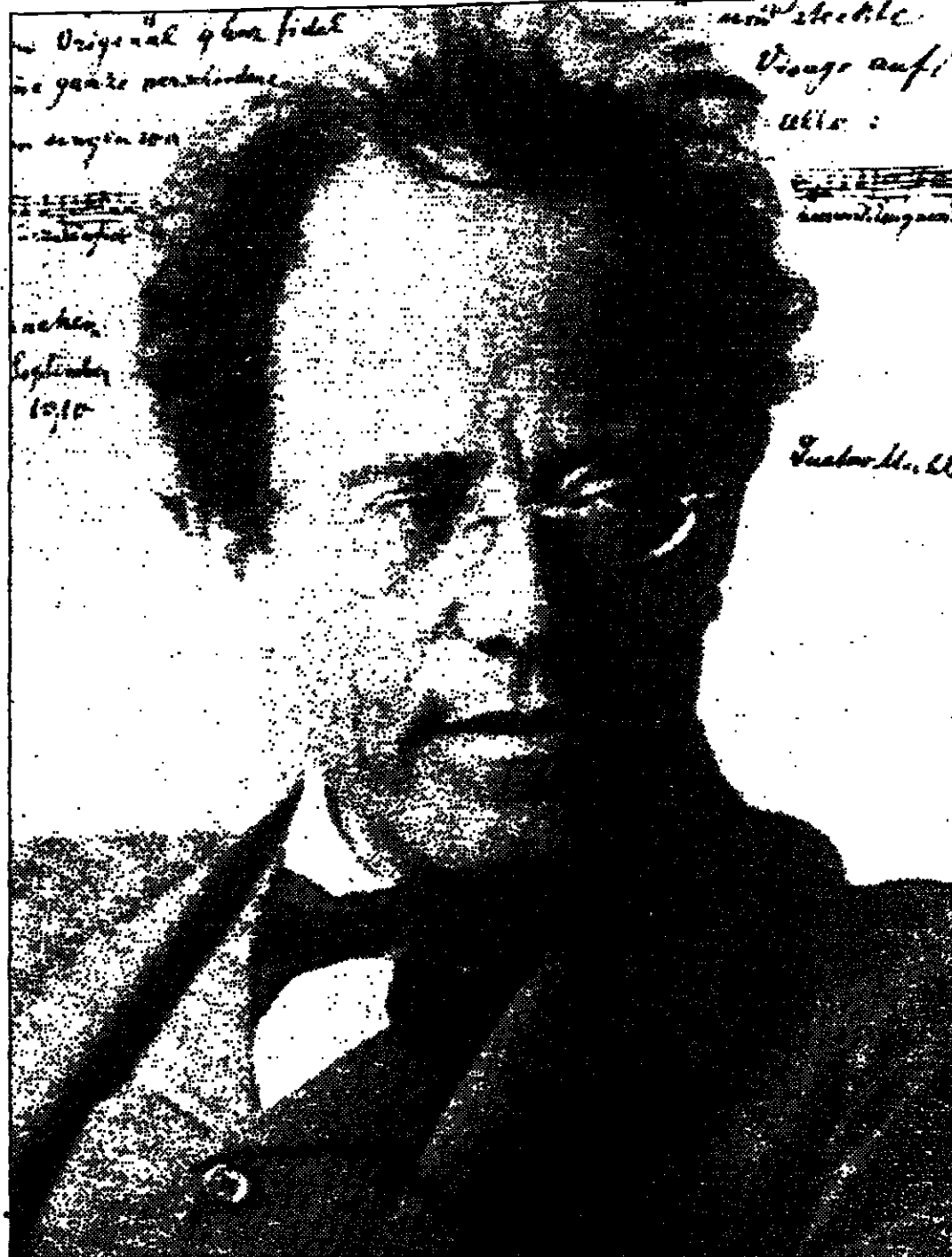
An altogether more glittering kind of brilliance is to be found in the Orchestre Symphonique Montréal's disc of Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra under Charles Dutoit. Even so, there is urgency beneath the surface here, both in the work itself and in this interpretation of it. It is good to hear the OSM sound so well in music outside the French repertoire, in which they have become specialists. There is also a substantial bonus on this disc in the form of Bartók's Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste of 1936, a piece of just as much intellectual ingenuity and inspiration as the concerto. There is a wonderfully aromatic, mysterious slow movement, with its very timpani glissandi and enveloping muted strings in this performance, while the second and last movements both go with a real swagger. Decca's engineers have as usual captured well the warmth of the

acoustic of the church of St Eustache just outside Montreal.

Next to contrasting views of Beethoven, it is one of the wonders of our age that Gunter Wand, who uses the modern style instruments of the North German Radio Symphony Orchestra (and by the sound of it, quite a few of them), and Frans Bruggen, with his relatively small, period-style orchestra of the 18th century, can happily co-exist. Wand's accounts of the first and seventh symphonies are firmly in the Titanic, cast, though both works are also given with pulsating energy. There is much in the way of dynamic contrast here, as you might expect, and brute force counts for much, even if the sheer weight of sound means that the outer movements of the seventh cannot surge along with quite the necessary dionysiac abandon.

Conversely the "Eroica", arguably the most intense of all the symphonies, might well be thought of as working better with a larger, thicker-sounding group of players than Bruggen has at his disposal. Yet this live performance is no excuse of an interpretation. The slow movement moves faster than perhaps many are used to, though more naturally for that, and Bruggen puts his weighty intellect to good use throughout. With this disc, short measured though its time span is, he can hold his head high against any competition.

Stephen Pettitt



Music maker: Gustav Mahler photographed in 1910 and (left) seen conducting in a silhouette caricature



Sense of fun with a serious purpose: Mike Gibbs, still listening.

JAZZ

Mike Gibbs Orchestra Big Music (Virgin Venture VE 27)

A lot of people will be glad to hear that Mike Gibbs is back in town — people who remember the London jazz scene of the very early Seventies, when the youthful energy of Mike Westbrook, John Surman, Chris McGregor and others was in full spate, when the avant-garde had yet to blow itself out, when rock still seemed a potentially fruitful ally, and when a quiet young Rhodesian trombonist, arranger and composer led a big band that incorporated many of the very best elements of all the music in the air at the time.

Mike Gibbs has been lost to us for more than a decade, doing good work as a member of the faculty of Berklee College in the United States, where he himself had first come to notice as an exceptionally gifted student in the Sixties. Apart from the occasional string arrangement for Joni Mitchell, Peter Gabriel and the Mahavishnu Orchestra, he existed in the public mind only as the author of a handful of tunes still to be found in the repertoire of such as Gary Burton and Stan Getz. In fact, his recent CV is far

Right back in the swing

fuller than the casual observer might expect: orchestrations for Michael Mantler, Pat Metheny and John McLaughlin, music for two Ballet Rambert pieces, and record production for the guitarist Kevin Eubanks and the saxophonist Bill Evans are all projects which might have escaped all but the closest scrutiny. In the light of what was predicted for him after his first exploits, his profile has been extraordinarily low.

Big Music may not be the record to put his name on a million lips, but it will certainly return him to a position of prominence in the meagre ranks of those composer-bandleaders able to find a way for a large ensemble to play contemporary jazz that is also cognizant of the wider world. Produced by John L. Walters, formerly of the band Landscape, and recorded in New York, this is not the brass-reeds-and-rhythm music beloved of traditional big-band

fans; it aims for a state-of-the-art appeal which sometimes involves crashing rock-derived rhythms and timbres.

Hardly anywhere on the record, for example, is there anything sounding remotely like conventional jazz drumming. Instead, three men are credited with the drum-synthesizer programming which gives the music a rhythmic style that would not be out of place on pop radio. But does it swing? Yes, it does, and that should be an end to the matter.

Most of the time, Walters achieves his aim of making the music sound as if it belongs to 1988 without compromising Gibbs's established virtues. In its combination of a sense of fun with an underlying seriousness of purpose, it might be the sort of album Loose Tubes would make if they found themselves under contract to ECM.

The job of a jazz composer is to provide a setting for solo voices, and among those hav-

ing their say here are the trumpeters Ian Carr and Lew Soloff, the altoist Chris Hunter, and the guitarists John Scofield and Bill Frisell. Like his great hero Gil Evans, Gibbs tends to undercompose: a fragment of melody will do to make a whole piece, if enough textural variety can be woven around it. This tends to leave plenty of room for the improvisers, who welcome the scope. In a piece called "Mopsus", for example, a lovely, bleary melody line opens up all kinds of spaces for the rhythm section, creating a stimulating contrast for solos by the trombonists Dave Bergeron and Dave Taylor.

The method does not always work — sometimes the simplicity seems just a little too blatant — but the hymn-like lyricism of "Almost Every Day", which features Hunter at his most convincingly passionate, and the impressionistic beauty of the introduction to "Pride Astride", which makes imaginative use of the combined sonorities of Hunter and the marvellous Frisell, show that Gibbs is still listening, still growing, still absorbing everything around him into a music of considerable character.

Richard Williams

Guiding light

CD/TAPE GUIDE

The New Penguin Guide to Compact Discs and Cassettes by Edward Greenfield, Robert Layton and Ivan March (Penguin, £12.95)

The front cover of Penguin's latest record guide says it nearly all. There are two silver compact discs and, tucked away, a drawing of half a cassette. The old title, *Complete Penguin Stereo Record Guide*, has been dropped to make way for the CD. "By now LPs, sadly, are well on their way to obsolescence", writes Ivan March in an Editor's Comment.

Well, perhaps they are moving in that direction, even if they have not yet travelled the full distance. When 1988 is summed up next month and we all select our favourite "music carrier" titles, it will be noticed that one of the most important issues of the year, four hours of Chaliapin on the HMV Treasury label, did not come out on CD.

But then the recital section is by far the flimsiest part of an otherwise comprehensive

Penguin Guide. There is nothing on the first solo records of the new generation of singers such as Vanessa, Gimenez and Canonici, nor on EMI's excellent mid-price series featuring singers such as Schock, Thill and Printemps.

Chaliapin does get a mention for a CD of Russian opera arias, and he gets a roselle as well. This is a distinctly arbitrary award for an issue which "shows special illumination, magic, or a spiritual quality that places it in a very special class. The choice is essentially a personal one" — not very helpful when the reviews and thus the choices are unattributed.

The editors next year would perhaps be better advised to drop the spiritual roselle and introduce a more practical four-star category. The present top award of three stars ("an outstanding performance and recording in every way") goes to far too many issues.

Despite such gripes, though, *The New Penguin Guide to Compact Discs*, like its predecessors, is never going to be far from hand.

John Higgins

Dark shades of flirtation

ROCK

The Bangles Everything (CBS 482373 2)
Fleetwood Mac Greatest Hits (Warner Bros WX 221)
Bryan Ferry with Roxy Music The Ultimate Collection (EG EGV 2)
Buddy Holly The Complete Buddy Holly (MCA CDSP 807)

Like the ripe mauves and bruised purples that permeate its cover design, the Bangles' *Everything* is an album of predictably bright, flirtatious appeal, but with occasionally darker shadings than of yore. The group's elusive charm remains that of four thoroughly modern girls in funny, loud clothes with an ear for the harmonies and beat music of the Sixties. But the audit on their last album, 1986's *Different Light*, which now shows sales of more than five million copies, has boosted their songwriting confidence, along with their tax bill, into a different bracket.

The bassist Michael Steele's "Glitter Years" is a notably clear-eyed reminiscence of the Seventies was like for the less fortunate children of the hippie revolution: "Why would he bother going home? His parents left him on his own/Who knows, maybe they were out getting stoned".

Generally though, one could hardly accuse the group of getting too serious, even if there is nothing here to match the out-and-out daftness of the group's earlier hit, "Walk Like an Egyptian".

The single "In Your Room", which owes a small debt to Tommy James and the Shondells, is uncomplicated bubblegum laced with an intriguing psychedelic orchestral sequence at the end, a device which pops up again on the

entertaining heavy rock pastiche "Watching the Sky".

It is inconsequential pop to be sure but, apart from one ghastly dirge, "Eternal Flame", which sounds like a substandard soundtrack for a cola commercial, *Everything* romps along with a frothy, innocuous aplomb. At least it is comprised of newly recorded songs.

There are only two new tracks on Fleetwood Mac's Greatest Hits collection: a soppy Christine Perfect ballad titled "As Long as You Follow", and an undistinguished, mid-tempo plod called "No Questions Asked".

Otherwise the album is a straight run-through of the familiar and enduringly bankable legacy of a group whose

soft rock and petty emotional intrigues mirrored to a depressing extent the concerns of that ageing generation of parents referred to in the Bangles' song.

Here we find the comforting sounds of Perfect's glacial vocals ("Everywhere", "You Make Lovin' Fun", "Say You Love Me"), Stevie Nicks's bittersweet quaver ("Rhiannon", "Gypsy", "Dreams", "Sara", "Seven Wonders") and Lindsay Buckingham's chundering work-outs ("Big Love", "Oh Diane").

Bryan Ferry has a nerve, calling his second "greatest hits" album in three years: *The Ultimate Collection*. Not only that but he has copied half a dozen Roxy

Music tracks (including "Dance Away", "Angel Eyes" and "Love is the Drug") to make up for the paucity of his own hits, and then added the group's name in tiny lettering as an appendage to his own on the cover (though omitting a group credit of any sort on the label).

Once again the gorgeous, pouting Ferry's oddly stylized singing style skates coldly across any emotional content in his material, while the high incidence of cover versions, including "Let's Stick Together", "The 'In' Crowd", "Jealous Guy" and the previously unreleased "He'll Have to Go" (the old Jim Reeves song) reinforces the impression of a shallow talent at work.

For a genuinely ultimate collection there is MCA's six-album boxed set *The Complete Buddy Holly*, which claims to feature "every known Buddy Holly track" as well as interview material, demo tapes and his early attempts to produce records for other artists, including Waylon Jennings. His earliest recordings with Bob Montgomery as a country vocal duet (which, ironically, made me think of the Proclaimers) give way to a period of rough old country-billy material, during which his distinctive hiccupping singing style developed, and on through to the string of worldwide hits which began in 1957 with the Crickets' "That'll Be the Day".

Arranged in chronological order, and accompanied by scrapbook memorabilia as well as copious and insightful sleeve notes, this is an artefact of singular splendour. Anyone requiring a more comprehensive package should consult a psychiatrist.

David Sinclair



Oh Boy: A new box set claims to feature every Buddy Holly track.

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BOOKS

War's forgotten heroes

POWs who made the break also get all the glory. Now non-escapers tell their story, writes Charles Rollings

PRISONERS OF THE REICH
By David Rolf
Leo Cooper, £14.95

Forty-four years after Hitler's war, prisoners of war books still appear with surprising regularity. This year has seen the publication of three new POW stories, former POW Aidan Crawley's memoirs, *Leap Before You Look*, a number of related books on evasion, plus paperback reissues of several classic POW escape stories. With the number of POW books set in the last war now exceeding 1,000, as well as the proliferation of stage, radio, film and television dramatizations, one would have thought the subject exhausted.

Not so. Most former POWs feel these accounts trivialize their experiences by repeatedly recounting the persistent intransigence of a few dedicated escapers, mostly officers. In *Prisoners of the Reich*, David Rolf, lecturer in history at Birmingham University, aspires towards the first comprehensive account since 1944 to concern the German administration of prison camps, the regulations governing British POWs and their conditions, diet, studies, pastimes, and final liberation, thus putting the record straight for the numerically greater non-escaping fraternity who feel their story has not been told.

Not that this gap in the history of prisoners of war comes as a surprise. Their routine — concerning as it was with sleeping, eating, and marking time until liberation occurred — seldom makes as gripping reading as the high adventure and suspense of escape, even though mere survival was itself a feat of heroism. What is surprising is the patchiness of Rolf's account. He draws on archives, scholarly histories, personal accounts, and hundreds of letters, log-books, diaries, and interviews, yet barely scratches the surface. David A. Foy's *For You, The War Is Over* (1984), an account of the German treatment of American POWs mentioned in Rolf's references, is considerably more precise and informative on every subject.

Although Foy concentrates on Americans, his remains the definitive text on the German treatment of Allied POWs. Rolf, one feels, has attempted a British version but failed to match Foy's scope, clarity and authoritative voice. His account of how the British administered life within their compounds is scanty, and of conditions in specific camps at particular periods of the war, superficial. He provides no maps

showing prison camp locations, although maps produced by the Red Cross are a useful starting point.

Similarly, the task of describing the immediate psychological effects of captivity is beyond him. Few pages are devoted to such secondary adjustments as baring the enemy or studying for exams; religious conversion is dismissed with barely a paragraph; no mention at all is made of political conversion or the upsurge in interest in Freudianism. Hardly any mention is made of the revival in enthusiasm for nature and culture.

Nor does he seem able to analyse motives for and against escaping. Uniquely placed to make some preliminary observations relating escape consciousness to rank, social class, education, profession, age, political views and personal factors, he instead gives this short shrift and simply repeats arguments already rehearsed in Paul Brickhill's *Escape — Or Die!* (1952) and Aidan Crawley's *Escape from Germany* (1956 and 1985).

These shortcomings have their source in choice and organization of material. Having observed

repeatedly that the books, films, and television series that have appeared do not tell the non-escaper's story, he goes on to list in his references at least 25 books by and about them, plus Foy's study, A. J. Barker's *Behind Barbed Wire*, an account of the treatment of POWs from the First World War to Vietnam, published in 1974; and Richard Garsen's *POW* (1981), a study of POW conditions throughout history. Curiously, he ignores Pat Reid and Maurice Michael's history, *Prisoner of War*, produced in 1984.

Neither does he make any reference to Noel Barber's *Prisoner of War*, published in 1944, which went into great detail about diet, working parties, medical treatment, recreation, and education in camps in Germany and Italy, as well as the evolution of the Geneva Convention and the work of the Red Cross.

The tone of Barber's book was reassuring, and information was heavily censored for security reasons. But I have no doubt it is far more accurate than Rolf's. Although Rolf's bibliography is exten-

sive, he relies heavily on interviews undertaken and letters written to him during the past few years. Recent research by Mass Observation reveals that accounts written during and after the war, despite censorship and propagandist intent, are far more likely to be accurate than memoirs produced decades later. The same can be said of letters and interviews.

A number of Rolf's references are dubious. Neither Tom Calnan's *Free As a Running Fox* (1970), nor George Harsh's *Lonesome Road* (1971), Sam Kydd's *For You, The War Is Over* (1973) and George Moreton's *Doctor in Chains* (1970) evidence a firm grip on reality. At the same time, some important contributions to the genre are omitted: Eric Williams's *Goon in the Block* (1945) and *The Tunnel* (1951), which are excellent on conditions at Dulag Luft, Oflag XXIB and Stalag Luft III; James Taylor's *Prisoner of the Kormoran* (1945); Robert Kee's *A Crowd Is Not Company* (1947), arguably the best POW book ever written; Elvet Williams's *Arbeitsskommando* (1975); Richard Passmore's *Moving Tent* (1982); Roy Child's *A Wartime Log* (1985). The structure adds to the patch-

iness of the material. It follows the classic capture-imprisonment-freedom cycle, with the second portion divided into three chapters, one each devoted to Army, RAF and Navy camps. But conditions from camp to camp were not so dissimilar as to warrant discussion by service. Rolf would have been well advised to structure his narrative around issues, comparing the treatment of different arms and ranks at different periods in the war.

On the other hand, the last third of the book, dealing with repatriation, liberation, and the long-term effects of captivity on character and career progress, is as suspenseful and moving as the climax to any story of escape; it is galling to discover that British POWs never received back-pay and compensation for their years in captivity. There can surely be no starker condemnation of the shoddy way British governments treat those men they send to war.

Should *Prisoners of the Reich* lead to survivors receiving some recompense, it will have achieved something worthwhile, instead of being yet another bewildered contribution to the anecdotal history of POWs.



Illustration by George

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

Her Mother's Daughter, by Marilyn French (Pan, £4.99) Feminist blockbuster, as 50-ish Polish immigrant who has become star photo-journalist (an absurd chimera), survivor of two marriages, tries to understand the legacy of grief that binds her to the past.

Hot to Trot, by John Lahr (Methuen, £4.50) Cynical, funny, and sad decline and fall of love and lust for a middle-aged American television executive who is trying, catastrophically, to swap matrimony for a good time.

Not So Quiet, by Helen Zenna Smith (Virago, £4.95) Women's All Quiet on the Western Front, subtitled "Stepdaughters of War", first published 1930, the shocking story of one of "England's Splendid Daughters", an ambulance driver at the French front, which is nothing like her altruistic expectations or her parents' dreams of glory.

Return Journey, by Helen Flint (Black Swan, £3.95) Funny and heartbreaking, clever first novel about newly married Oxford graduate, called on to escort her disturbed and disabled mother from Canada to England, and the collapse of a family under stress.

Square Peg, by Joseph McKewen (Corbi, £2.99) Continuing the Liverpoolian saga of poverty and desperation: "The war's over — so what're yeh gonna do?"

Tales of Natural and Unnatural Catastrophes, by Patricia Highsmith (Methuen, £2.95) Macabre short stories: tumours swell above ground in graveyard; giant cockroaches take over swish New York apartment building; whales, the Pope, and a trigger-happy American President.

The Simon Crisp Diaries, by Christopher Matthew (Coronet, £3.95) Along with Footers and the Provincial Lady, Popsy and Adrian Mole, the bumbling bachelor standing on his dignity and falling flat on his face.

Tooth, by Harry Matthews (Coronet, £4.95) Picaresque adventure takes central character from Siberian camp on an involved journey through Asia, to Italy, Bombay, Morocco, and France, with faked documents, diagrams, word puzzles, scenario for scabrous blue movie, and other outrageous imaginings.

Vendetta, by Derek Lambert (Sphere, £2.99) Duel to death between champion snipers in the skeleton of Stalingrad, 1942, with that terrible winter at their heels.

We That Were Young, by Irene Rathbone (Virago, £5.95) Semi-autobiographical novel of the work of women during the First World War. "Yes, we hated it, and loved it, both. Loved it only because we gave so much to it, and because it was bound up with

Irish Women's Tales
Irene Rathbone
We That Were Young



QUICK GUIDE

out your youth. It was our war, you see."

NON-FICTION

A Dictionary of Obscenity, Taboo and Euphemism, by James McDonald (Sphere, £3.99) Alphabetical arrangement of explanations of ancient and modern, from flirty to flouting to bonk.

Art Deco, by Alastair Duncan (Thames & Hudson, £5.95) Comprehensive and scholarly survey of the delightful art form, heavily illustrated in colour.

Astaire, by Tim Satchell (Arrow, £4.50) Biography of tip-tapping, swirling star, of whom the Hollywood talent scout reported: "Can't act, can't sing, balding, can dance a little."

Charles Laughton, A Difficult Actor, by Simon Callow (Methuen, £5.95) Biography of the Hunchback of Notre Dame, Henry VIII, Captain Bligh, and (unfinished) Claudius; not many actors are worth a biography, being empty masks and chameleons, but this, by a fellow trooper, is one of the best theatre books yet.



Country Life, A Social History of Rural England, by Howard Newby (Cardinal, £4.99) Moving and accurate account of the real heritage of our countryside, behind the sentimental townies' balcony.

Dictionary of Theatre, by David Pickering (Sphere, £7.99) International, alphabetical, from Aeschylus to Pinter, and Noh to Helen Mirren.

Fifty Major Philosophers, by Diane Collinson (Routledge, £6.95) Reference guide, not really thinking man's approach to philosophy, but useful skeleton key for harassed students.

Ken Duxley, by Brian Masters (Hutchinson/Muller, £3.95) Updated survey of the quaintest and smallest species of our native fauna, not in the least threatened by anything.

The International Dictionary of 20th Century Biography, by Edward Vernoff & Rima Shore (Sidgwick & Jackson, £11.95) 5,600 short biographies of leading figures in politics, arts, sciences, and pop culture.

The Pocket Scots Dictionary, edited by Isabella Macleod, Ruth Martin, & Pauline Cairns (Aberdeen University, £4.95) Charming and useful spin-off from *The Concise Scots Dictionary*, with Scots words old and new, general and local, clear definitions, pronunciation guide for difficult words, literary uses, etc.

To the Church of England, by Gareth Bennett (Churchman, £5.95) Essays and papers, including the 1987/88 Crockford Preface that led to the author's death.

Umbria, by Michael Adams (Bellew, £7.95) Revised edition of the famous travel book about the landlocked heart of Italy that is superseding *Tuscany* for snobs, now that the Joneses from next door have found Tuscany.

Everything but a wasp in a wig

To draw a wasp in a wig, said Tenniel, was "altogether beyond the appliances of art". He was prevaricating, of course. After all, he had already applied art to a caterpillar smoking a hookah and a lobster about to sugar its hair; he could have done it if he'd wanted to. The perfection with which he matched Carroll's fantasy in his pictures, and the care with which he and his author worked to get a coherent relationship between illustration and text, have been the despair of competitors ever since. Every new interpreter finds the necessity of his enterprise called in question.

As the latest contender, Anthony Browne arrives with a large reputation. He has already won prizes and medals (but no silver thimble) for various picture books which bear witness first to his enjoyment at playing with images — *Gorilla as Superman*, for example — and second his skill at painting pictures full of intricate and colourful detail. These characteristics are well to the fore in his *Alice*, for which he has created 14 full-page colour plates and 29 colour illustrations within the text. Except for the beautiful frontispiece and one or two smaller drawings, every picture contains some visual trick of pictorial reference, presumably designed to provide a stream of invention and quotation parallel to the one flowing through the story.

Thus the Mad Hatter grins ghostly from the chimney-pot of W. Rabbit's house; toprary takes the form of cats, hares, and fishes; and there is pictorial homage to Tenniel, to Anthony Browne himself, and — over and over again — to Magritte. (You could use the book in an art school quiz show.)

But such cleverness is not enough. Seemingly Browne has said to himself not "How can I show in pictures what is going on in this story?", but rather "How

CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

By Lewis Carroll
Illustrated by Anthony Browne
Julia MacRae, £12.95



can I use this story in pursuit of 'dazzling illustrations'?" (the publisher's epithet). As you read the book, the progress of the narrative is constantly interrupted by images bearing the label "Look at me", and Carroll's words are subordinated to frigid graphics.

No doubt it is ingenious to have Alice go through W. Rabbit's door, making an Alice-shaped hole (cf. Magritte's "Perspective Amoureuse"), but that trick undercuts rather than enhances Carroll's nonsense. And it may be witty to put a cricket bat in Dinah's bowl — "Do cats eat bats?" — but how can that square with Alice's later reversal of the question?

Browne's craftsmanship is not in doubt and with his dabblings in surrealism he could easily draw a wasp in a wig, but big, genial, and without modest Sir John remains unassailed.

The path to madness

PAPERBACKS

Adam Carr

THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF FANTASY ALL-TIME GREATS

Edited by Robert Silverberg & Martin H. Greenberg
Robinson, £4.95

THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF CLASSIC SCIENCE FICTION

Edited by Isaac Asimov, Charles G. Waugh, & Martin H. Greenberg
Robinson, £4.95

An attempt to read these anthologies at anything like one sitting will have the same effect on the reader as the assorted demons, dwarfs, metamorphosing blobs, and mad scientists have on the frequently ill-starred protagonists of these stories: creeping disorientation followed by total well-confusion. This insidious sensation may have something to do with the limited imaginative roots of the plethora of worlds depicted. Where, for example, might this be? "On every side stretched a bleak and desolate expanse of plain, covered with a tall overgrowth of sere grass, which whistled and rustled with heaven knows what mysterious and disquieting suggestion." You may well ask, as does the puzzled shade of this particular story ("An Inhabitant of Carcosa" by Ambrose Bierce), "How came I 'hither'?"

The answer is that you have entered, via a well-trodden path of images derived from romantic poets, any one of the myriad worlds in *The Mammoth Book of Fantasy All-Time Greats*. With the aid of no more powerful magic than a pair of scissors, hordes of persons with unpronounceably silly names, entire landscapes, even the cumbrously fascist societies so beloved of the fantasy writer may be seamlessly transposed from one story to another; you feel as if you are being sold a bit short.

There is the same potential for confusion in *The Mammoth Book of Classic Science Fiction*, where, on account of a heavy preponderance of time machines, there must exist a very strong statistical likelihood of sundry intrepid time travellers popping out in each others' stories. This may explain the nervous apprehensions with which these brave gentlemen confront the fraught necessity of re-materialization.

The majority of these novellas first appeared in *Thriller* American magazines like *Amazing Sto-*

ries and *Amazing Science Fiction*, which began life reprinting Jules Verne and H. G. Wells for the very good reason that at the time there were no contemporary writers of fantasy/sci-fi. However, because of the magazines' popularity they were not long in coming. In his introduction to the sci-fi volume, Isaac Asimov tries to head off some of the criticisms levelled at the nascent genre: that it is derivative, that it has an alarming tendency towards childishness, and that it may fall foul of Sturgeon's law that "90 per cent of everything is crud".

At the risk of being branded a "pretentious pedant" (Asimov on those who "turn their noses up"), I must say that I am not convinced by his argument that you must give a new genre a sporting chance. One can only imagine a very lonely young man capable of getting through "Minot worked savagely, stripping clothing from the bodies slain in that incredible conflict of Confederate soldiers and Roman troops, in some unguessable pathway of space and time" ("Sidewise in Time" by Murray Leinster).

But the most distressing of these stories are the ones that try to be funny. The worst offender is "Nothing in the Rules" by the

doyen of fantasy writers, L. Sprague de Camp (in fantasy even the authors have silly names). Sprague de Camp takes a basically rather small and unfunny idea: that there is nothing in the rules of two swimming clubs to prevent one of them entering a mermaid in a competition. He then flogs it to death and beyond over 22 painful pages. Not childish? Laugh? I ground my teeth down to the stumps.

In another de Camp story, "Divide and Rule", set in the future, we find two "knights" discussing the relative merits of their suits of armour. One says to the other "What do you think of the new Ford suit?", to which the other replies that he prefers to stick with his Packard. Either you find this sort of thing funny or you don't. Besides, the unintentional jokes are much more amusing: "The dark witch who rides beside him, the Princess Margaret" (Stanley G. Weinbaum, "Dawn of a Flame").

But it is only fair to say that a lot of people do like these stories. One or two are quite good. "Alas All Thinking" by Harry Bates is a genuinely haunting vision of the final fate of mankind that also has the virtue of being one of the few well-written pieces in the two books. Although it avoids interminable passages of overwritten purple prose and nauseating interchanges of absurd imaginary dialects and so on, it is so derivative of H.G. Wells's vision of the future as to border on the actionable.

I am told that science fiction is all the rage with yuppie students these days. Presumably it serves as an antidote to their rather dreary ambitions. I am sure that those who are attracted by either the aerodynamically unsound pterodactyl/bat thing and its samurai rider, or the disconcertingly sane-looking scientist assembling a mate on the covers of these anthologies, will find much to divert themselves within them.

THE TIMES

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EATING OUT

The grand French style

Cooking — or, if we are to represent it with phonetic literality, *cookeen* — is, according to M. Albert Roux, "like luv — you don't ave to be Frainch to be good at eet". I suspect that very few people apart from M. Roux ever actually thought that you did 'ave to be Frainch to excel at either pursuit.

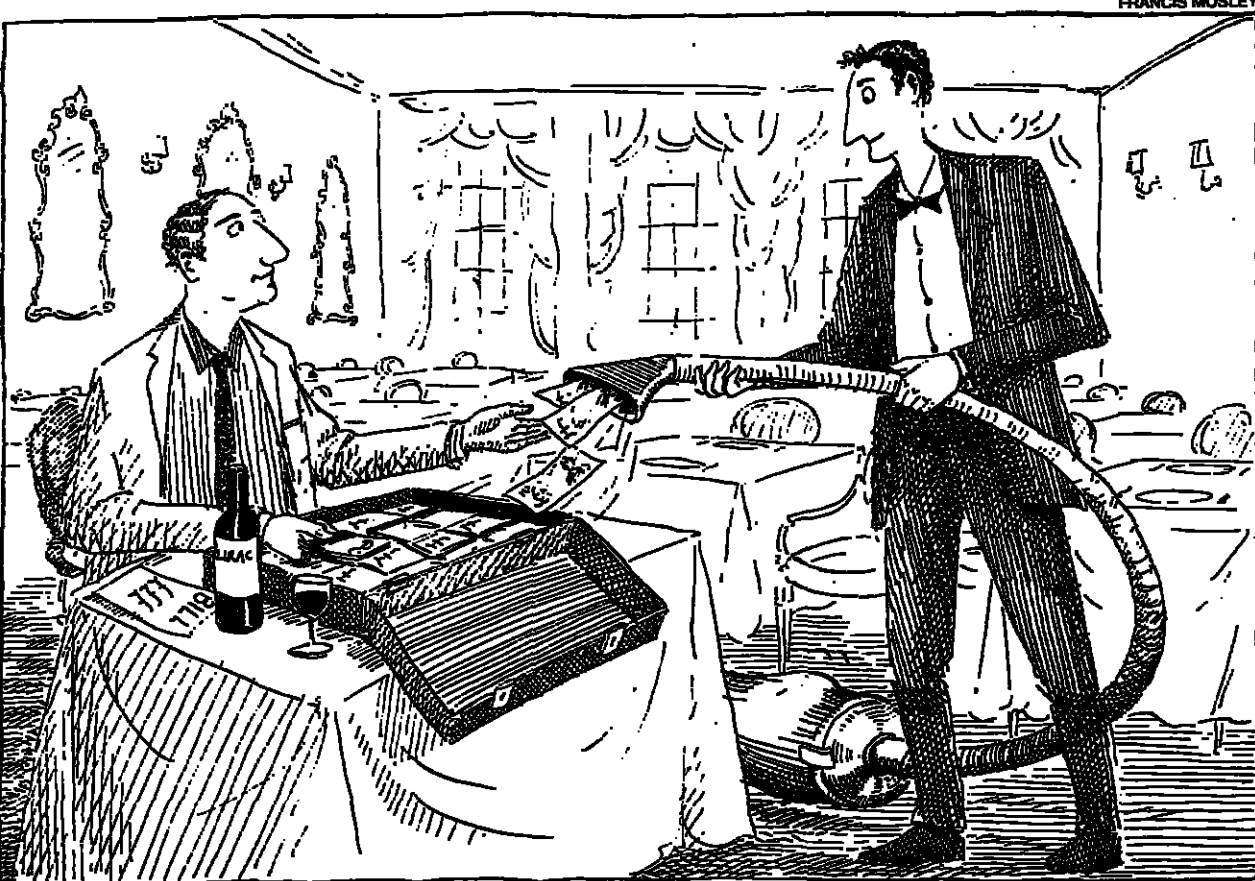
For fairly obvious reasons, I am unqualified to pass on M. Roux's essays in luv, but if they're anywhere near as good as his cookeen I would, in another life, another guise, be very happy to date the fellow. But this column is called Eating Out, not Waiting Out, and so it is not my place to zee plate the tender embrace of a manly daimie, the rapturous buss of a hunk of meat — you cannot beat Albert's meat.

He owns, among much else, a butchery that he immodestly but truthfully claims is the best in Britain — if every restaurant was to patronise the Boucherie Lamartine, rather than some of the snobby, iffy flesh-mongers that they do, it would not necessarily make them as good as Le Gavroche, but it might help a bit.

This is a case of justified reputation — its reputation for excellent *ancise* regime meal cookeen is justified, its reputation for excellent service is justified, its reputation for high prices and outrageously creative mark-ups is justified. It is very expensive, and I cannot recall ever having seen so many people paying with folding money — this no doubt says something about the sort of people who frequent the joint.

What they get for their money is the basement of a mid-century neo-Georgian pile along the lines of the National Farmers' Union building in Knightsbridge or Wiltshire County Hall in Trowbridge. The entrance is unflashy and discreet. The comprehensive nannying and nursing that you're in for begins as soon as you're across the L-reshold; the only other establishment I've come across with service of this kind and quantity (there really is an awful lot of it) is Chewton

Jonathan Meades discovers that you get exactly what you pay for at Le Gavroche, home of the legendary Roux brothers, and samples the work of a recent graduate of the brothers' school, at Honours Mill



Glen, where people leap out of bushes to light your cigarettes and pander to your whims almost before you've articulated them to yourself.

Here, on the ground floor, is a greenish bar with a rather odd selection of prints and not a photograph or painting of the Roux brothers in sight; however, the titular *gavroche*, a cute urchin out of Murillo by Gordon Fraser, is much in evidence, printed on every available surface. This is the authentic lapse of taste which is the *sine qua non* of first-rate French restaurants. On the way downstairs you begin to get the Albert and Michel treatment — they gaze out of countless photographs, their names are copper-plated on countless certificates of proficiency, the full dress ma-

sonry of the higher cheffy is evinced on these walls. As basements go, the dining room is successfully self-dissembling — you do not feel buried — the decorative scheme emphasizes the vertical accents to make the room look higher than it is. I'm not sure what you call the style: decorators' directorate, maybe. The room is stately rather than pretty, comfortable, middle-aged, *solid*. The staff, all 500 of them, are amiable as well as dauntingly efficient — they, too, possess a sort of solidity, and so does the

cooking. It is not light, it is not "modern", it is founded in classical taste, it is bereft of gimmickry and of fancy. Even its failings are of an old-fashioned sort — for instance, a *mouclade* which was too powerfully flavoured with curry powder. This is the sort of aberration that used to be commonplace in France 20 or more years ago — it's an example of a pseudo-orientalism very different from today's. With the exception of this dish, the cooking was seriously impressive: a fine cheese

soufflé with a buttery cheese sauce; a dark and comforting daube of beef that was described as being "what the *belle époque* must have tasted like"; creamy mashed potato; a dish of three filets — lamb, beef and veal with different sauces; a great apple and calvados soufflé; a *tarte tatin* of really stupendous quality. The frivolity of experimentation is totally shunned. What this place excels at is the maintenance of a tradition that is clearly coming back into fashion — witness the success of Bibendum, which essays much of the same repertoire (and shares the same enthusiasm for high prices). With a half of Chablis, a bottle of Lirac preposterously priced at £19 and a half of Sauternes, two will pay

Le Gavroche
★★★★★
43 Upper Brook Street,
London W1 (01-408 0881)
£140. All major credit cards.
Ties obligatory. Noon-2pm and
7-11pm Mon to Fri.

Honours Mill
★★★★★
67 High Street, Edenbridge,
Kent (0732 866757)
£75. All major cards. 12.15-
2pm and 7.15-10pm Tues to
Sat. 12.15-2pm Sun.

DIRECTORY

JAPANESE

Kitchen Yakitori
12 Lancashire Court, off Bond
Street, London W1 (01-629
9884)

★★★★★
Cramped Japanese café whose
yakitori (skewered meats) are
good, but by no means the only
attraction. It is probably the only
place in Britain that serves eel
livers. Sashimi and tempura are
pretty good. £50.

Umeno-Ya
253 Finchley Road, London
NW3 (01-435 8802)

★★★★★
Delightful café whose cooking is of
a far higher standard than many
smaller places. Flavours are
unusually assertive and portions
are larger than the norm. Miso
soup, vegetable tempura, sally
grilled mackerel, salad of dried tuna
are commendable, and so is the
relaxed, efficient service. £35.

Nantes
6 Blenheim Street, London W1
(01-535 6319)

★★★★★
Decoratively classic café where
cigarette smoking is obligatory. The
cooking is unfailingly good and the
menu includes many rarely seen
dishes: marinated cod roe, belly
tuna sashimi, barbecued chicken
heart and gizzard. Good natural
service. £50.

Wakaba
122a Finchley Road, London
NW3 (01-586 7960)

★★★★★
The *ne plus ultra* of minimalist
cuisine. John Pownall's interior
looks like the unfinished canteen of
a high tech micro optics lab in
Uppsala. As expensive Japanese
restaurants go it is not over-
expensive and the fairly standard
repertoire is done with real brio.
The inventive appetizers include
deep fried salmon skin which is
delicious. £50.

Mimiyu
32 Clerkenwell Street, London W1
(01-493 2443)

★★★★★
Smart, expensive and folklorically
formal Japanese restaurant whose
food, despite its endlessly fussy
appearance, is good. Fine fondant
suburgins, grilled salmon, broth of
green tea and sour plums, tea
flavoured ice cream. £70.

Benihana
100 Avenue Road, London
NW3 (01-586 7118/9508)

★★★★★
Gimmicky pseudo-Japanese diner
dressed up with California in mind
no doubt. Chefs cook in front of the
customers guaranteeing a fine film
of fat on clothes and faces. £50.

Mion
Cumberland Hotel, Great
Cumberland Place, London W1
(01-262 1234)

★★★★★
Unstarving Japanese restaurant in
the depths of a Trusthouse Forte
barrel. Presentation is lousy
even by Japanese standards but
there is nothing wrong with the way
the standard issue dishes taste.
Good pickles. £54.

This is a changing selection of
restaurants visited in recent
months — managements and
standards may have changed.
Stars — up to a maximum of 10
— are for cooking rather than
swags and chandeliers. Dishes
described are included to give
an indication of the cooking but
may well have changed. Prices
quoted are for a three-course
meal with drinks for two, and
are determined according to the
"When in Rome" principle: in
the case of French places,
aperitifs and a bottle of modest
wine; in the case of oriental
ones; beer or *lassi* in the case
of Indian ones and so on. J.M.

BRASSERIES

Café Pelican
45 St Martin's Lane, London
WC2 (01-379 0309/0259)

★★★
Large pseudo-French "brasserie"
whose efforts at sophisticated
dishes are usually useful, but
whose steak and chips, Toulouse
sausage and the like are sound
enough. £40.

Criterion Brasserie
222 Piccadilly, London W1 (01-
639 7133)

★★★
High Victorian Ottoman
theatricality. The vast room is
splendid and the tesselated ceiling
a marvel. The cooking is better than
one might expect — it is owned by
Trusthouse Forte; such brasserie
classics as choucroute and
Toulouse sausage with potato
curry are of a decent standard.
Reasonable, cheap wines. £38.

Kensington Place
201 Kensington Church Street,
London W8 (01-727 3184)

★★★★★
Highly impressive brasserie which
looks good, tastes great but
sounds loud. Fole gras with
sweetcorn pancake is memorable,
and so are potato salad with
truffles, salt cod dishes, bolito
miste, sweets and cheeses. Fairly
brief wine list is well chosen and
includes some real bargains. £50.

La Brasserie
272 Brompton Road, London
SW3 (01-581 3089)

No stars
Insultingly poor ersatz French
cooking — nasty andouillettes,
horrible pig trotter and ficed chips
— at insultingly high prices. £50.

Café Lolo
12 Great Marlborough Street,
London W1 (01-434 2666)

★★★
The connection with the Lolo is
cosmetic, a sprinkling of dishes
more or less associated with the
wide and of that river. The place's
shopping is better than its cooking
so stay with the charcuterie. Large,
bustling and fairly comfortable.
Decent, petite wines. £50.

Café Wille
62 Regent Street, London W1
(01-437 8000)

No stars
A part of the Trusthouse Forte
owned Café Royal turned into
some sort of ersatz brasserie. For
tourists only. £25.

£150 — which is serious
damage.

But then it's a serious place
and perhaps the most authentically
French grand restaurant
in the country. Or, rather,
it's probably the one that most
closely corresponds to our
generalized idea of a grand
French restaurant. Though Albert
Roux is still nominally in
charge, the actual brigade is
now led by his son Michel,
who has mastered the family
trade at some extraordinarily
tender age. I should guess that
more than half of the best
chefs in this country have
been trained by one or other of
the Roux brothers — their
influence on not just restaurants
but on the entire culinary
culture of this country
cannot be overestimated.

Among the younger alumni
of the Roux school is Neville
Goodfellow, brother of the
swimmer Duncan, who is,
along with a third brother, a
partner in Honours Mill at
Edenbridge. This is a very
handsome clapboard building
whose low beams must be a
nightmare for the bald gold
medallist. The conversion of
the building has been accom-
plished with real flair. It must
be among the best looking
places in the Home Counties.

The cooking is technically
polished but consistently suffers
from underseasoning — one
gets the impression that
Mr Goodfellow is keeping him-
self on too tight a rein. There
are some nice ideas which
don't get that far beyond being
anything more than ideas on
account of this inhibition;
still, some things were fine —
an austere dish of red mullet
with a red wine sauce, a dish of
smoked fish in a decent
jelly, a pot-au-feu of chicken
and scallops rather like a
waterzooi.

Against this there was a very
bland dish of sucking pig with
apple that lacked the acidity to
cut the meat's fattiness, some
flavourless goose ham and a
lemon tart that was sharp to
the point of sourness. The
wines are impressive, the service
is good and if the chef can
just let himself go a little it will
turn into somewhere worth
braving the interminable
southern suburbs to reach.
Two, will pay about £75.

RESTAURANT GUIDE

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THE TIMES COOK

Bread-winning ways

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buttered and play the baking game

DIANA LEADBETTER



Cider steamed mussels
(Serves 4)
4lb/1.80kg mussels
2 shallots or 1 small onion
1 stick celery
1/2pt/140ml dry cider
2 tsp fine salt
white breadcrumbs
2 tsp finely chopped parsley
white pepper
1oz/30g butter

Scrub the mussels under cold
running water, discarding any
that remain open. Tug off the
"beard" wedged in the straight
side of the shell, and knock off
any barnacles with the back of
an old knife. It is worth doing
this, otherwise the barnacles
may get dislodged during the
cooking and release sand into
the pan. Rinse again very
thoroughly, drain them, and
put into a large, lidded sauce-
pan. Peel and finely chop the
shallots and celery and add to
the pan.

Pour on the cider; put the
lid on, and put the pan on full
heat. Steam the mussels for 2
or 3 minutes, shaking the pan
occasionally. Remove the lid,
toss in the breadcrumbs and the
parsley, and replace the lid for
30 seconds, shaking vigoro-
usly. Transfer the mussels

to a large tureen or individual
bowls with all the cooking
liquid, discarding any mussels
that remain closed.

A small loaf or bread rolls
made in a food processor
1/2pt/140ml tepid water
1 heaped tsp dried yeast
1/2lb/230g strong flour
1/2 tsp salt

Put the water in a bowl, and
sprinkle on the yeast. After
about 15 minutes, it should be
fermenting and bubbling. Put
the flour, salt and yeasty
liquid into the food processor.
Process for one minute in
short bursts. Knead the dough
on a floured board until it is
no longer sticky but smooth
and elastic. Lightly oil a bowl,
and place the dough in it.
Cover with cling film or damp
teatowel and let the dough
rise. In a warmish room, it will
take an hour or so. When
risen, punch the dough or
knock it back so that it sighs as
all the air is knocked out of it.
Again on a floured board,
shape the dough into a loaf, a
loaf with a couple of slashes in
the top, or rolls, and place it in
a greased, floured loaf tin or
on a prepared baking sheet as
appropriate. Set aside to rise a
second time for about 40 to 60
minutes. Bake near the top of

a pre-heated oven, gas mark 4,
180°C/350°F for 15 to 20
minutes.

Here is another favourite
dish that will send welcoming
smells from the kitchen. The
traditional recipe uses butter
and cream. However, olive oil
and thick Greek yoghurt make
excellent substitutes.

**Aliot (cheese and potato
puree)**
(Serves 4 to 6)
2lb/900g maincrop potatoes
1/2lb/110g butter or extra
virgin olive oil
4 tsp cream or yoghurt
1/2lb/230g grated Gruyère and
Lancashire cheese, mixed
pepper, salt

Scrub but do not peel the
potatoes. Boil until tender and
drain. When cooled enough
to handle, scoop the cooked
potato from the skins into the
saucepan and mash until
smooth. With a wooden
spoon, beat in the butter or oil,
keeping the pan over a low
heat. Stir in the cream or
yoghurt, and then add the
cheese, stirring until it has
melted into the potatoes. Season
to taste and serve
immediately.

There are plenty of hand-
some pumpkins in the shops
now to be made into all
manner of smooth, golden
dishes.

Pumpkin Pie
(Serves 6 to 8)
1/2lb/230g shortcrust pastry
10oz/280g pumpkin, cooked
and puréed or canned
4oz/110g golden syrup
2oz/60g light muscovado
sugar
1/2 tsp ground pepper
1/2 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp ground mixed spice
2 size 3 eggs, lightly beaten
1/2pt/280ml gold top milk or
half and half mixture of milk
and single cream

Roll out the pastry, and line a
9 or 10 inch pie dish. Mix the
pumpkin, syrup and sugar
until thoroughly blended. Stir
in the spices and beat in the
eggs. Pour in the milk, and
beaten thoroughly before pour-
ing into the pastry case. Bake
in a pre-heated oven, gas mark
7, 220°C/425°F for 15 min-
utes, then turn down to gas
mark 4, 180°C/350°F for a
further 35 minutes or until set,
or when a skewer inserted into
the centre comes out clean.

Frances Bissell

DRINK

To be opened by Christmas

The new Beaujolais overcame great hardship to arrive on Thursday. Was it worth it? Jane MacQuitty and a tasting panel give their verdict

Bloodied but unbeaten by wine trade bad-mouthing and the strike at Calais, Britain's 1988 bottles of Beaujolais Nouveau limped across the Channel in the small hours of Thursday morning. Nouveau would not be nouveau without some last-minute panic but this year's circus, due to the two-day Calais strike, very nearly did not happen. This year's crop of disaster stories mainly concerned lost lorries en route to the alternative ports of Dunquerque and Boulogne, trapped

by French police roadblocks. While outspoken Simon Loftus from Adams, although he did ship some, dismisses it snootily as a "ridiculous commercial craze", and leading wine writer Hugh Johnson calls it "a universally popular (but frequently foul) new drink they are pleased to call Beaujolais Nouveau", it is clear that the Great British Public is far from fed up with nouveau. Berkman Wine Cellars' imports of best-selling Georges Duboeuf are up this year from 23,000 to 27,500 cases, and Oddbins, Tesco and

the like have increased their orders too. Unlike last year's rush from vine to bottle, the Beaujolais producers have had extra time this year to make their wine — an early flowering and a hot summer brought the harvest in three weeks earlier than last year. But it is not as good. Instead of 1987's classic and surprisingly consistent primeur fruit, the 1988 Beaujolais Nouveau vintage has produced wines with a reasonable colour, more structure, acidity and tannin, but a lot less charm and fruit.

1988's uneven yield has also produced a worrying inconsistency in the final wines. We found several faulty wines at our blind tasting, besides those that showed few of the characteristics of the Beaujolais region's Gamay grape. Our top wines will soften from now until Christmas, when they will make good inexpensive festive red wines (50p a bottle cheaper than standard, and often dreary, Beaujolais). But don't hang on to your nouveau bottles until Easter — they are not likely to last that long.

C Tasting the 26 widely available Beaujolais Nouveaux for *The Times* at Shampers wine bar this year were owner and dedicated Beaujolais fan, Don Hewitson (DH); wine buff and buyer, James Rogers (JR); plus the home team of John Higgins (JH), Robin Young (RY), and myself, Jane MacQuitty (JM).

This one should still be on your shopping list. Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais Nouveau, Thrashers, £3.99; The Victoria Wine Company, £3.69 (75cl); Davison's, £2.99; London Wine Limited, 15 Lots Road, London, SW10, £2.99 (70cl). Everyone liked this one: "excellent fruity palate, typical bubblegum nouveau" (JR), "well-balanced Gamay mouthful" (DH), "agreeable, light, zesty-salty wine" (JM) and "an actual pleasure to quaff" (JH). Tastes even better with food.

E. Loran Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau Davys of London, 151 Borough High Street, London SE1 and Wines Galore, 165 Greenwich High Road, London SE10, £3.80 or £3.20 by the case (70cl). "Not a particularly authentic Gamay style, but attractive punchy, fruity flavour" (DH), and its "good, slightly peppery, spicy" taste also went down well with JR and JH. "above average", JM found "fresh bubblegum scent".

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

François Paquet Beaujolais-Villages Primeur 88 Rishanger Lane, London W5, £3.20; Brighton Station Wine Cellars, Trafalgar Street, Brighton, £2.99 or £2.89 by the case (70cl). Monsieur Paquet's "vibrant, zesty raspberry fruit" was deemed delicious by JM and DH; "stylish, soft Gamay character", JR found it easy to drink.

Jaffelin Beaujolais Nouveau Hampden Wine Company, 8 Upper High Street, Thame, Oxon, £3.50; Connolly's, 110 Edmund Street, Birmingham, £3.17 (70cl).

"This is proper nouveau — very fresh, slight acidic prickle on the tongue" (JR), "attractive, flowery, fragrant style, very easy drinking" (JH). But its "powerful salty-lemmony style" (JM) and "drying salty finish" (RY) means that this is definitely a food wine.

RECOMMENDED

Beaujolais Nouveau, Cave Coopérative Beaujolaise de Bully, Cuvée de la Martinière Waitrose, £2.75 (75cl). A "rich, radurantly, velvety mouthful but needs more nouveau zing" (JM) and "a clever, commercial nouveau style but too soft" (JR).

Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau Wizard Wine Warehouses, £3.79; Berkman Wine Cellars, 12 Brewery Road, London N7, £4 (75cl). London Wine Limited, £2.99 (70cl). This "good, big, chunky, beefy wine" (JM) slightly lacked zest and charm but had "big, fat, soft flavour" (RY) and "very full, soft, ripe fruit" (JR).

Mommessin Pichet de Beaujolais Nouveau Hannells Stores, 3 Davies Street, London W1, £3.95; Old Street Wine Company, 309 Old



Second: Georges Duboeuf

Street, London EC1, £3.50 (75cl). A "light, vibrant, appealing, guiding nouveau" (JM), DH and JR agreed: "light, fresh, reasonable flavour, easy drinking", but this duo also felt it had excess acidity and lack of individuality.

Jacques Dégagnieux Beaujolais Nouveau Addison Vintners, 8 Addison Avenue, London W11, £3.35 or £2.99 each for six bottles; Oskiers, 63a Clerkenwell Road, London EC1, £3.25 or £3 by the case (70cl). "Light, appealing raspberry taste" (JM) but let down by an atypical, herbaceous finish that was "a little harsh and solid" (DH) and "strange" (RY).

Beaujolais Nouveau, F. Colin Barollet Co-op, £2.89-£2.99 (70cl). "A pleasant, lively glass of nouveau without excessive excitement" (JM). For DH "fruit and style but lacking definition", and "easy drinking without being a classic" (JR).

ACCEPTABLE

E. Loran Beaujolais Nouveau Unwins, £2.99 (or £2.66 by the case) (75cl); Balls Bros, 313 Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 sold as Jacques Charlet, £2.65 (70cl).

"Soft acceptable but ordinary fruit" (JM), "lacks nose but a reasonable quaff" (JH) and JR, RY and DH remarked its acidity.

Sainsbury's Beaujolais Nouveau J. Burdin Sainsbury's, £2.75 (75cl). "Robust, clean, fruit but no nouveau magic" (JM). "A

fresh nose but too acid" (JH) and JR: "too acidic".

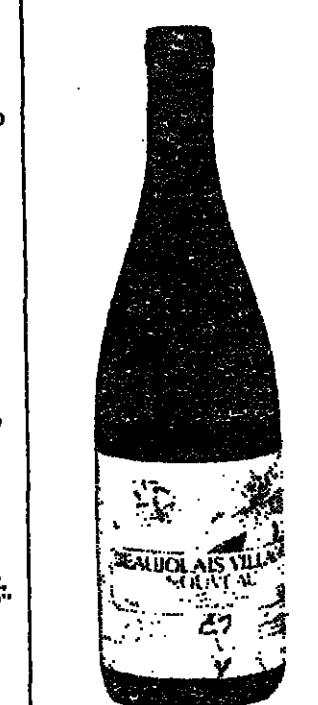
St Michael Beaujolais Nouveau, Celler des Samsone Marks & Spencer, £3.50 (75cl). This pretty, painted bottle was enjoyed by RY ("fresh, jolly, bumptious"), but its "earthy, slightly dank palate" did not go down well with JM or DH. "rather harsh, acidic finish" JR thought food would do the trick.

Pierre Féraud Beaujolais Nouveau Morris & Vardin, 28 Churton Street, London SW1, £3.26; Wines from Paris, The Vaults, 4 Gile Street, Leith, Edinburgh, £3.20 or £3.12 by the case (70cl). "Seductive plum fruit aroma but unexciting apple-rhubarb palate" (JM), "apple taste, rather acidic wine" (JR). "Excessive acidity" for DH, and "just acceptable" for RY.

Asda Beaujolais Nouveau Asda £2.75 (75cl). "Slightly earthy fruit, pleasant, but rather too tart and lemony" (JM). "Full fruit, soft middle, slightly acidic on the finish" (JR). "Superficial" (RY).

Joseph Drouhin Beaujolais Nouveau Majestic Wine Warehouses, £3.99; Gerard Harris, 2 Green End Street, Aston Clinton, Bucks, £4.30; Harrods £4.35 (75cl). "Fresh ripe smoky scent but let down by a watery palate" (JM).

(JM). No doubt caught by Burgundy's rain, not Beaujolais' sun. JR: "would like more fruit", and RY: "raw, brash, harsh".



Third choice: E. Loran

BORDERLINE

Tesco Beaujolais Nouveau,

Arthur Barolet et Fils Tesco, £2.69 (75cl). "No faults, just doesn't taste of anything. As neutral a nouveau as you can get" (JM). "Simple, watered down" (JR).

Safeway Beaujolais Nouveau Safeway, £2.69 (75cl). "Dank, dull, lacks fruit" (JM). "Stomach cramps!" (JR).

UNACCEPTABLE

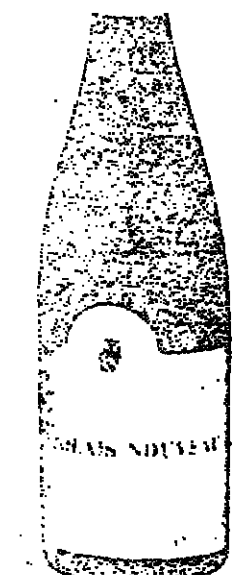
Chamut Frères Beaujolais Nouveau Newman & Gilbey, 186 Trinity Road, London SW17, £2.99; Hadleigh Wine Cellars, Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, £2.95 (70cl).

Robert Sarrau Beaujolais Nouveau Haynes, Hanson & Clark, 36 Kensington Church Street, London W8, £3.49; Gerard Harris, £3.85; Snipe Wine Cellars, 34 North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, £2.99 (70cl).

Beaujolais Nouveau, Jean-Paul Bellès Majestic Wine Warehouses, £2.59 (70cl).

Beaujolais Nouveau, J. Thibaut The Victoria Wine Company, £2.99 (75cl).

Beaujolais Primeur, F. Noblecour Wizard Wine Warehouses, £2.59 or £2.50 by the case (70cl).



Panel's first prize: Bully

TOP THREE

Beaujolais Nouveau, Cave Coopérative Beaujolaise de Bully (Groupement de producteurs label) Oddbins, £2.49 (70cl). Our favourite of all the 1988 Nouveau was blessed with an attractively low price and a "bright, raspberry/cherry fruit... delicious. I could drink a lot of this" (JM). It was "pleasant, soft, easy" for RY, had "an excellent nose" for JH and "will develop well by Christmas" (JR). If you're bored by Beaujolais Nouveau

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THE WEEK AHEAD

And now for the news



Power of the News: Huey Lewis (above) and his band the News begin their UK tour this week in Brighton. Although on this side of the Atlantic Huey Lewis and the News were little known before the summer of 1985 when "The Power of Love" became their first UK hit, the group's workmanlike brand of pop-R'n'B had already found spectacular favour in its native America, where the 1983 album *Sports* went to No 1, and eventually sold more than nine million copies worldwide. The 38-year-old Lewis, an agreeably unpretentious cove who was born in New York and raised in California, started out as the harmonica player and occasional singer in the country-rock band Clover. With desperately bad timing, that aggregate of good old boys from San Francisco arrived in London to make their fortune just as punk

was getting into full swing in the late Seventies. After their demise, Lewis pieced together the News with the former Clover keyboardist Sean Hopper, and began the long slog to the top. While tinted by some pretty blatant pop, the appeal of the band's show remains rooted in natural sounds and a relaxed bonhomie, and they usually boast a superlative horn section. Tomorrow, Brighton Centre (0273 202881); Monday and Tuesday, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); November 27, 28, 29, Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234); December 1, SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000); December 3, Point Depot, Dublin (0001 366777); December 5, Kings Hall, Belfast (0232 665225). David Sinclair

JAN GARBAREK: On tour with a quartet including bassist Eberhard Weber and percussionist Nana Vasconcelos. Garbarek Arts Centre, Brighton (0273 655861) tonight; Old Vic Theatre, Bristol (0272 250250) tomorrow; Arts Theatre, Cambridge (0223 352000) Tues; Astoria Ballroom, Leeds (0532 490382) Wed; St Donats Arts Centre, Llantwit Major (04465 4848) Thurs; Town & Country Club, London (01-284 0303) Sat 26.

ROCK
SADE: Still quietly promoting the *Stronger Than Pride* album. Tonight, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); Mon and Tues, Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234).
WILL DOWNING: "A Love Supreme" soul emoter from New York. Tonight, Manchester Apollo (061 273 6921); tomorrow and Mon, Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081).

GALLERIES
COLOUR IN SCOTTISH PAINTING: A survey of works from William McTaggart to Joan Eardley and June Hedderley. City Art Centre, Edinburgh (031 225 2424). From today.
RICHARD DEACON: A retrospective of abstract sculpture by the winner of last year's Turner Prize. Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, E1 (01-377 0107). From Fri.
JULIAN SCHNABEL: Big paintings by the 1980s wunderkind of the New York art world. Wedington Galleries, London, W1 (01-437 8611). From Thurs.

FILMS
BIRD (15): Clint Eastwood's impressively mounted biography of Charlie Parker, with Forest Whitaker as the legendary jazz saxophonist. Lumiere (01-836 0691). Screen on the Hill (01-435 3366). From Fri.
SCROOGED (PG): Seasonal comedy featuring Bill Murray as the TV executive determined to exploit Christmas to the full. Directed by Richard Donner. Plaza (01-437 1234), from Fri.

FILMS ON TV
THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD: Martin Ritt's suitably bleak rendering of the Le Carré novel, with Richard Burton. Channel 4, Thurs, 8.30-10.35pm.
MEPHISTO (1981): Oscar-winning film from the Hungarian director, István Szabo, about an actor putting expediency before principles in Nazi Germany. Channel 4, Thurs, 11.50pm-2.30am.

TELEVISION
EXECUTIVE STRESS: Penelope Keith and Peter Bowles in George Layton's sitcom about a husband and wife working for the same company. ITV, Tues, 8.30-9pm.



RUMPOLE OF THE BAILEY: Leo McKern (above) as John Mortimer's bustling barrister, Horace Rumpole, defending a newspaper editor in a libel case. ITV, Wed, 9-10pm.

RADIO
SOUTH OF SIXTY: Bernard Jackson begins a four-part report from Antarctica on the latest state of scientific research. Radio 4, Wed, 7.20-7.45pm.

THE CARTOONISTS: Bill Tidy talks about his craft to Frank Whitford in the first of a new series on the comedians of brush and pen. Radio 4, Thurs, 9.45-10am.

Theatre: Tony Patrick; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Clive Davis; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee; Television: Beila and Films on TV: Peter Waymark

THEATRE

LONDON

THE CHURCHILL PLAY: Revised version of Howard Branton's political thriller/fantasy, directed by Barry Kyle. With Colin Welland, James Ellis, Sean Baker, Felicity Dean and Phil Daniels. Previews from Thurs. Opens Nov 30. In repertory.

LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET: Contemporary melodrama, conceived and performed by Neil Bartlett, Annie Griffin, Leah Hausman and Luke Williams. Institute of Contemporary Arts, Nash House, The Mall, SW1 (01-930 3647). Opens Tues.

A QUESTION OF GEOGRAPHY: Stratford production of John Berger and Nella Blaisdell's study of relationships among Russian internal political exiles in 1952. Directed by John Caird. The Pit, Barbican, EC2 (01-638 8891). Previews from Wed. Opens Nov 29.

RICHARD III: Derek Jacobi, directed by Clifford Williams, with a company including Jeffrey Dench, Clive Arndell, Rachel Gurney, Robert Edmondson, Barbara Jefford, Katherine Pogson, David Rintoul and Malcolm Tierney. Joined in repertory after Christmas by *Richard III*. Phoenix (01-836 2294). Previews from Wed. Opens Nov 28.

SINGLE SPIES: An *Englishman Broad and A Question of Attribution*, companion pieces about Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt, by Alan Bennett, directed by and featuring Bennett and Simon Callow. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). Previews from Thurs. Opens Dec 1.

THE TEMPEST: Cheek by Jowl Company in the first of two "desert island tales" they are touring. Joined next week in repertory by *Philoktetes*, by Sophocles. Directed by Declan Donnellan. Donmar Warehouse, Shelton Street, WC2 (01-240 8230). Previews Tues, Wed. Opens Thurs.

OUT OF TOWN

LEATHERHEAD: The Odd Couple: Gyanna van Gyman and Patricia Stephenson in the UK premiere of the female version of Neil Simon's comedy of friends forced to share an apartment.

Thornhill (0372 377677). Opens Tues.

LEICESTER: Rustaveli Theatre Company. Acclaimed Soviet company, led by Ramaz Tchikhlvadze, in extracts from *Richard III*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *King Lear*. In Georgian with interpreter. Haymarket-Studio (0533 539797). Thurs-Nov 26 only.

Guys and Dolls: Loesser/Swering/Burrows musical based on Damon Runyon stories, directed by Peter Lichtenfels, with Joanne Campbell, Martyn Ellis, Mark McGann, Emil Wolk and Susannah Fellows. Haymarket (0533 539797). Previews from tonight. Opens Wed.

CONCERTS

ELLY AMELING: This soprano contributes to the Schubert and Mendelssohn: the Classical Romantics series with settings by both composers of Goethe and Schiller. Wigmore Hall, 38 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-935 2141). Today, 7.30pm.

ALL TCHAIKOVSKY: In the first of three all-Tchaikovsky concerts this week Yuri Temirkanov conducts the RPO in the *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*, *Rococo Variations* (Natalia Gutman, cello) and *Symphony No 6 "Pathétique"*. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ROMANTICAL CLASSICS: Adding a further chapter to Schubert and Mendelssohn: the Classical Romantics, Jeffrey Tate conducts the ECO, Tallis Chamber Choir and soloists in Schubert's Mass No 2 and in Mendelssohn's too little-known *Die Erste Walpurgisnacht*. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Tues, 7.45pm.

WHYTE/SHEPPARD: The Talles Singers sing Whyte's *Christe Qui Lux Domine* and Sheppard's *Portio Mea*, Sheppard's *Reges Tharsis* and Western Wynde Mass. Peter Phillips conducts. St John's, Smith Sq, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Wed, 7.30pm.

FLAMING SHOSTAKOVICH: Continuing the Shostakovich: Music from the Flaming series, Mstislav Rostropovich conducts the LSO in excerpts from *The Lady Macbeth of Mzensk* and *Symphony No 8*. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.45pm.

BRIDGE

Inviting players to be top

When Master points were introduced in America in 1936, the original intention was to establish a yardstick by which a player's ability could be measured. It was intended that the number of Master points awarded should vary according to the stature of the event. Initially the scheme worked well but, by accident or design, the value of the awards was eroded by "inflation". Today there are no less than 30,000 people who can claim the rank of American Life Master. It would be less fun being a millionaire if everyone else was even richer.

In this country, Master points date back only some 30 years. There are fewer British Life Masters and even fewer Grand Masters, but the same objection remains. Master point rankings too often reflect a blend of longevity, persistence and past achievement rather than current prowess at the table. Unkind, perhaps, to compare them with the gold braid on a front doorman's uniform: more the campaign medals of a valiant old soldier.

If anyone doubts the validity of this criticism, consider what would happen if Master points were applied to tennis. Laver, Newcombe and Rosewall would certainly be seeded ahead of the young lions of today.

If you object that the comparison is unfair because tennis is a physical game, what about chess? The ELO ratings accurately reflect the strength

of the leading chess players because they take account of the strength of the opposition. Ah, you might say, but that would be impractical at bridge, where the disparity between the leading players and the relative novice is so great. Exactly. Master points are only significant in events which are limited to Masters.

You may remember that I said that the value of Master points was eroded by accident or design. The explanation for my cynicism lies in the financial rewards that the ruling bodies have obtained from their various schemes. It was the late Victor Mollo, I believe, who said: "I swiftly learnt that the rate of exchange between Master points and money was unfavourable."

Provided nobody takes them seriously, Master points are a harmless conceit. It doesn't matter if it gives some persevering but untalented performer pleasure to boast that he is this Master or that Master (I believe there are at least 12 different grades of "excellence" known to the EBU). The damage, and real damage too, has arisen because the authorities can no longer stage invitation events. Imagine the outcry if some venerable Grand Master was overlooked in favour of some promising upstart, no matter that the youngster could run rings round the old boy.

The solution I suggest is to reintroduce invitation events, explaining that invitations will be extended to those who

have demonstrated their ability in the international arena, while reserving some "wild cards" for those whose promise entitles them to a chance. Then use those invitation events as a criterion to judge present form, and establish a meaningful ranking list.

This defensive hand, taken from Ron Klinger's *Playing To Win* (Gollancz, £4.95), should not prove a severe test for a world class player. It might, I suspect, defeat some of the less gifted Life Masters. Teams. Love All. Dealer: South.

West leads the ♠5. South captures the first trick with the ♠K, cashes the ♠A, on which West plays the ♠2, and continues with another diamond, won by West with the ♠Q. West switches to the ♠4 and you, East, take dummy's ♠Q with the ♠K.

Should you continue with the ♠2 on the basis that West's spades are J10x, or with the ♠A? And why?

The problem is open to logical resolution. From West's lead you can infer that South has three hearts. To make up the requisite 22 points, South must hold ♠AKQ, ♠AJ and ♠AKJ. To justify his play of the diamond suit, South must hold ♠AJxxx. The full hand was:

♠ O65
♥ 832
♦ 10754
♣ 10105

♠ AK72
♥ 984
♦ K8642
♣ 87642

W N E S

No 20 28
No 3NT No 2NT
No No No No

(1) Showing 22-24 balanced points.

West leads the ♠5. South captures the first trick with the ♠K, cashes the ♠A, on which West plays the ♠2, and continues with another diamond, won by West with the ♠Q. West switches to the ♠4 and you, East, take dummy's ♠Q with the ♠K.

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W N E S

No 20 28
No 3NT No 2NT
No No No No

GARDENING

Saviour of the sickly

Francesca Greenoak tells how even the most unpromising of wilting flowers can bloom with a little love and care

Always to select only robust and healthy plants is clearly sound buying advice, especially for the beginner, but there may be exceptions. Some of my favourite plants were once end of season throw-outs or sickly orphans which had no future at all without intervention. As long as you proceed with your eyes open, I would plead for a little charity towards such plants. They can respond wonderfully to care and attention.

One of my favourite plants is a shoulder height *Fatsia*, which has come through thick and thin with me for 12 years. I bought it in a bitter winter, a small plant bent over and left for dead in a cold corner of a greengrocer's shop. Perhaps the outrage in my glance was resented, for I was charged excessively for it. The stem was broken in two places, and its survival was in doubt for the first few weeks, but trimmed back and fed the plant became used to warmer conditions, and began putting out its pale green, infinitely fragile, new leaves which turned gradually to glossy dark green. It has not looked

very handsome, and it wasn't to create variety that I added other plants to the pot - simply that I have the habit of sticking cuttings into the nearest soil that's handy. However, several other plants now share the pot with the *Fatsia* to good effect: a purple-tinged *Tradescantia fluminensis*, *Tricolor* and the small variegated ivy spill down the side of the pot and curl around the woody lower stem (the only part of which recalls the early trauma). This year, I popped in a *Rhododendron* which swiftly climbed its way through to the top, hanging the dark foliage with purple bells.

WEEKEND TIPS
● Moisture bulb compost in pots if it shows signs of drying.
● Plant cloves of garlic outside, 2in (5cm) deep and 6in (15cm) apart, or in pots in the greenhouse for later transplanting.
● Lay turf for new lawns during clement weather.
● Pick the first medlars and bring them in to ripen; leave the rest on the tree to soften in the frosts.
● Refrain from cutting back cherries or plums, even if you forget to do it earlier; do them back as badly as possible and wait until next summer.
● Protect against agapanthus, crinums and less hardy foxgloves with a covering of garden compost.

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CHESS

Homage to Capa

Today is the centenary of the birth of that legendary iron man of chess, José Raúl Capablanca, who was born in Havana. Capablanca seemed destined for the chess purple from an early age, and when he did take the supreme title from Emanuel Lasker in 1921, the Cuban maestro did so without the loss of a game, a feat which has never since been repeated.

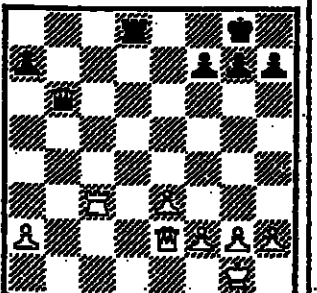
At the chess board Capa, as he was affectionately known, was razor sharp, but he also had a keen appreciation of his own tremendous strength and the wit to trumpet this should aspersions be cast on his genius. When the Russian Master, Eugene Alexandrovich Znosko-Borovsky, published a booklet entitled *Capablanca's Mistakes*, Capa was not slow to announce that he had tried to write a book called *Znosko-Borovsky's Good Moves*, but had renounced the project in despair at the lack of material.

Of Capablanca's own games it has been written, with justice, that they breathe a serenity, a lucid crystal clarity, a type of model perfection. Indeed, that they are the product of supreme chessboard art. When Capablanca died, on March 8, 1942, his great rival Alexander Alekhine wrote: "Capablanca was snatched from the chess world much too soon. With his death we have lost a very great chess genius, whose like we shall never see again." The following game helps to explain Alekhine's admiration for the Cuban. In addition, the coming Winning Move puzzles will reward *The Times's* homage to Capablanca, each position over his centenary week being the culmination of a Capa victory.

White: Alexander Alekhine; Black: José Capablanca. Ruy

WINNING MOVE

In the diagram, Black, to move, has a spectacular win. What is Black's winning move?



To enter *The Times's* Winning Move competition, send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times's* Winning Move Competition, The Times, 1, Victoria Street, London E1 6BN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a £100 prize. The winners' names will be published in *The Times* next Saturday.

Lopez, played at St Petersburg, 1914.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Bc5 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Nf6 6. Nc3 Bb7 7. 0-0 Be7 8. Nf5 Bxf5 9. Nxf5 Bxf5 10. Bg5 Bxf5 11. Nf5 Bxf5 12. Bxf5 Bxf5 13. Nxf5 Bxf5 14. Rxf5 Bxf5 15. Rxf5 Bxf5 16. Rxf5 Bxf5 17. Rxf5 Bxf5 18. Rxf5 Bxf5 19. Rxf5 Bxf5 20. Rxf5 Bxf5 21. Rxf5 Bxf5 22. Rxf5 Bxf5 23. Rxf5 Bxf5 24. Rxf5 Bxf5 25. Rxf5 Bxf5 26. Rxf5 Bxf5 27. Rxf5 Bxf5 28. Rxf5 Bxf5 29. Rxf5 Bxf5 30. Rxf5 Bxf5 31. Rxf5 Bxf5 32. Rxf5 Bxf5 33. Rxf5 Bxf5 34. Rxf5 Bxf5 35. Rxf5 Bxf5 36. Rxf5 Bxf5 37. Rxf5 Bxf5 38. Rxf5 Bxf5 39. Rxf5 Bxf5 40. Rxf5 Bxf5 41. Rxf5 Bxf5 42. Rxf5 Bxf5 43. Rxf5 Bxf5 44. Rxf5 Bxf5 45. Rxf5 Bxf5 46. Rxf5 Bxf5 47. Rxf5 Bxf5 48. Rxf5 Bxf5 49. Rxf5 Bxf5 50. Rxf5 Bxf5 51. Rxf5 Bxf5 52. Rxf5 Bxf5 53. Rxf5 Bxf5 54. Rxf5 Bxf5 55. Rxf5 Bxf5 56. Rxf5 Bxf5 57. Rxf5 Bxf5 58. Rxf5 Bxf5 59. Rxf5 Bxf5 60. Rxf5 Bxf5 61. Rxf5 Bxf5 62. Rxf5 Bxf5 63. Rxf5 Bxf5 64. Rxf5 Bxf5 65. Rxf5 Bxf5 66. Rxf5 Bxf5 67. Rxf5 Bxf5 68. Rxf5 Bxf5 69. Rxf5 Bxf5 70. Rxf5 Bxf5 71. Rxf5 Bxf5 72. Rxf5 Bxf5 73. Rxf5 Bxf5 74. 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TRAVEL

Experienced skiers are always looking for a better mountain to slide down. Travel Editor Shona Crawford Poole suggests some of the best

The world's top ten ski resorts?

Which are the charismatic resorts every keen skier should try not to miss? Where, before you hang up your boots, should you ski in your prime?

There are, of course, no absolute standards by which to weigh tangibles like lift capacity against atmosphere or skiing delight. To arrive at this particular top ten, Chris Gill, editor of the *Good Skiing Guide*, and I each made a list and then compared notes.

Five names — Argentiére, St Anton, the Trois Vallées, Val d'Isère and Zermatt — needed no discussion. Chris Gill still has Aspen, Jackson Hole and the Canadian helicopter skiing operation on his list of experiences to sample; St Anton is on mine. The overriding consideration is the quality of skiing for those of good intermediate standard or better.

FRANCE

Argentiére/Chamonix/Valée Blanche

Macho Mecca is the *Good Skiing Guide's* chapter heading on this fabled piece of ski terrain. "For tough skiing, the Chamonix valley has precious few rivals," says Gill. The town of Chamonix is the meeting place for real mountain men, both home-grown and foreign. They are thinner, fitter, browner and more often bearded than normal mortals. After skiing and before bathing they can be seen in the Guides House making their dispositions for next day. In good snow conditions, and the area has a reputation for the best snow in Europe, there are runs of testing length and steepness. Argentiére is where the elite meet on the piste. Wheels, fitness and a good appetite for challenging skiing are essential for full enjoyment. In fine weather and snow conditions, the Valée Blanche glacier run from Mont Blanc to Chamonix opens to parties of guided skiers. It is long, not difficult, and can be crowded.

UNITED STATES

Aspen, Colorado

Of the four resorts that make up the Aspen complex — the others are Snowmass (intermediate), Buttermilk (beginners) and Aspen Highlands (intermediate and experts) — Aspen itself is the jewel. The resort centre, a gussied-up

Victorian silver-mining town, is cosmopolitan and jolly. Its mountain, named Ajax, is held in international esteem for the length, steepness and interest of its most difficult runs. The easier ones are good, too. I have yet to experience the dryness, lightness and lavishness of its much vaunted powder snow. When it falls they open the back bowls — areas of unpisted powder, the memory of which brings a misty look to the eyes of those who have hit it.

CANADA

Bagaboo, Cariboo and the Monashees (British Columbia)

Helicopter skiing in the Canadian wilderness is a pastime for the seriously rich, seriously competent and seriously fit. Fuel-hungry helicopters drop groups of skiers on deserted mountain tops and collect them at the bottom. The bit in the middle has aspects of macho chic at its least attractive — the pursuit of vertical feet skied as measure of pleasure. Set against that is the unalloyed joy of skiing untracked snow in stupendous scenery with only a few of your fellow men in sight. Accommodation is in mountain lodges in the middle of nowhere. You fly in and out, so good company as well as good snow and good weather are needed to make the most of a substantial investment. If skiing is addictive, heli-skiing seems to more so. You have been warned.



Up, up and away: helicopter skiing in Canada can provide the pure joy of untracked snow in stupendous scenery — but it is only for the seriously rich, seriously competent and seriously fit

SWITZERLAND

Davos

Davos shares much of its skiing with prettier Klosters, where the Prince and Princess of Wales wintered. "There are exceptionally long runs which can be skied by almost anybody," Gill says. "Davos itself is a hideous place, but the extent of the good skiing is quite unusual." Morning rush-hour queues to get up the Parsenn are a strong incentive to start early or late. Klosters is best described as discreet. Gill has Davos/Klosters

firmly in his top ten and so, presumably, does HRH. I have to declare an interest, which is that I was going badly the one week I skied there. No resort is heaven to the skier who can do no right, but I do remember the train rides through magical scenery back from Klosters to Davos, when battle was over for the day.

FRANCE

L'Esplanade Killy/Val d'Isère/Tignes

Jean Claude Killy, Val d'Isère's favourite skier, son,

has lent his name to the resort's union with Tignes. More than most skiing areas, the two are indivisible in the plans of the paying customers, but whether the name L'Esplanade Killy will ever catch on remains to be seen. This is one of the largest ski areas anywhere. It draws experts back season after season. And, while offering vast tracts of well signed and well pisted snow to wobbly intermediates, much of the off-piste skiing is so well patronized that itineraries are as plain as motorways.

AUSTRIA

St Anton

This is the resort I most look forward to skiing. As Gill puts it: "No serious skier would dream of missing it out." I like the sound of its "long, steep runs, good length and good width. Very rewarding." It is the width, you understand, which most appeals. The impressive reputation of Hannes Schneider's Arlberg ski school gives the resort an image of being for the dedicated technical perfectionist. It has, arguably, says the *Guide*, the greatest variety of difficult skiing of any resort.

FRANCE

Trois Vallées/Courchevel/Méribel/Les Menuires/Val Thorens

For skiers who like to get up in the morning and go somewhere on skis, the Trois Vallées offer unequalled choices, including the famous three-valley *itinéraire*. On sunny days, queues form at bottlenecks on the circuit as every skier of any competence tries to ski to the extremities, Courchevel and Val Thorens, by way of Méribel and Les Menuires. Courchevel is chic, modern and not cheap. Its lowest point, the village of Le Praz, offers wooden chalets, wood smoke and some of the best food in the Alps. Méribel is virtually a British resort, newish but in the Alpine style, and a central boogie-up point for skiers to Courchevel or Val Thorens. Les Menuires is stark, Val Thorens is more so.

SWITZERLAND

Verbier

Verbier's celebrity with the average piste basher from Parson's Green is a puzzle until you appreciate the resort's social scene. The skiing is by no means ideal for those who make up its most numerous constituency. The resort's unsuitability for this skier of limited ability — serious overcrowding in the main areas due to the popularity of a few pistes — is due to its "brave" reputation. Off-piste skiing, when conditions are right, is what Verbier does best.

SWITZERLAND

Zermatt

Not everyone agrees that Zermatt's skiing alone qualifies it for top ten fame, although plenty do. But the combination of good skiing and one of the loveliest villages in the Alps is universally agreed to be a winner. Those who knew the resort long ago complain of new building sprawl and crowds. Those seeing Zermatt for the first time do not. Trains met by horse-drawn sleighs (smelly but nice), a

cosmopolitan crowd, a choice of swanky or homely hotels, and a weight of Swiss and British Alpine history are topped by the Matterhorn.

UNITED STATES

Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Jackson is one of the skiing experiences I would have been

the most sorry to miss. Its skiing has a reputation inside the US for toughness, but its appeal is wider than that. The saw-toothed Teton mountains rising from the floor of the Snake River valley are a stunning backdrop. And here, just outside Yellowstone Park, the great romance of the American West is still played out today. Add dry snow and friendly natives and enjoy.

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TRAVEL

Exploring the American dream

Michael Watkins
joins the glitzy
folk on the Virgin
Islands, where
even the fish
are frivolous

It may be of less than peripheral interest to you that I have just had my first golf lesson, on the sub-tropical island of Ay Ay. A rather attractive name, don't you think? It was changed, presumably because he felt it lacked class, to Isla de la Santa Cruz on November 14, 1493, by we-all-know-who. Three days later he discovered another archipelago, calling it Las Once Mil Virgenes in honour of St Ursula and the 11,000 martyr virgins. Virgin Gorda found him in a dyspeptic mood, Fat Virgin.

In the fullness of time — during which the Spanish, British, Dutch, French and Knights of Malta all dipped their fingers into the molasses — Denmark sold the island, by then known as St Croix, to the United States which, predictably, changed it yet again to "Saint Croix", shortly after converting native Cruzans to episcopalianism and golf. Which is how, at Carambola golf course, I came to have my lesson under the tutelage of Greg, the club pro.

Without meaning to sound cavalier, I would have best enjoyed these Virgin Islands between 1685 and 1690, when I would have shared the luminously beautiful 21 square miles with Jonathan Turner and his wife, breeding livestock, planting cotton and fishing. By 1690 there was a population explosion; with 14 men, several women and slaves, the place was going

*'I mused
over the
sorrows of
slavery'*

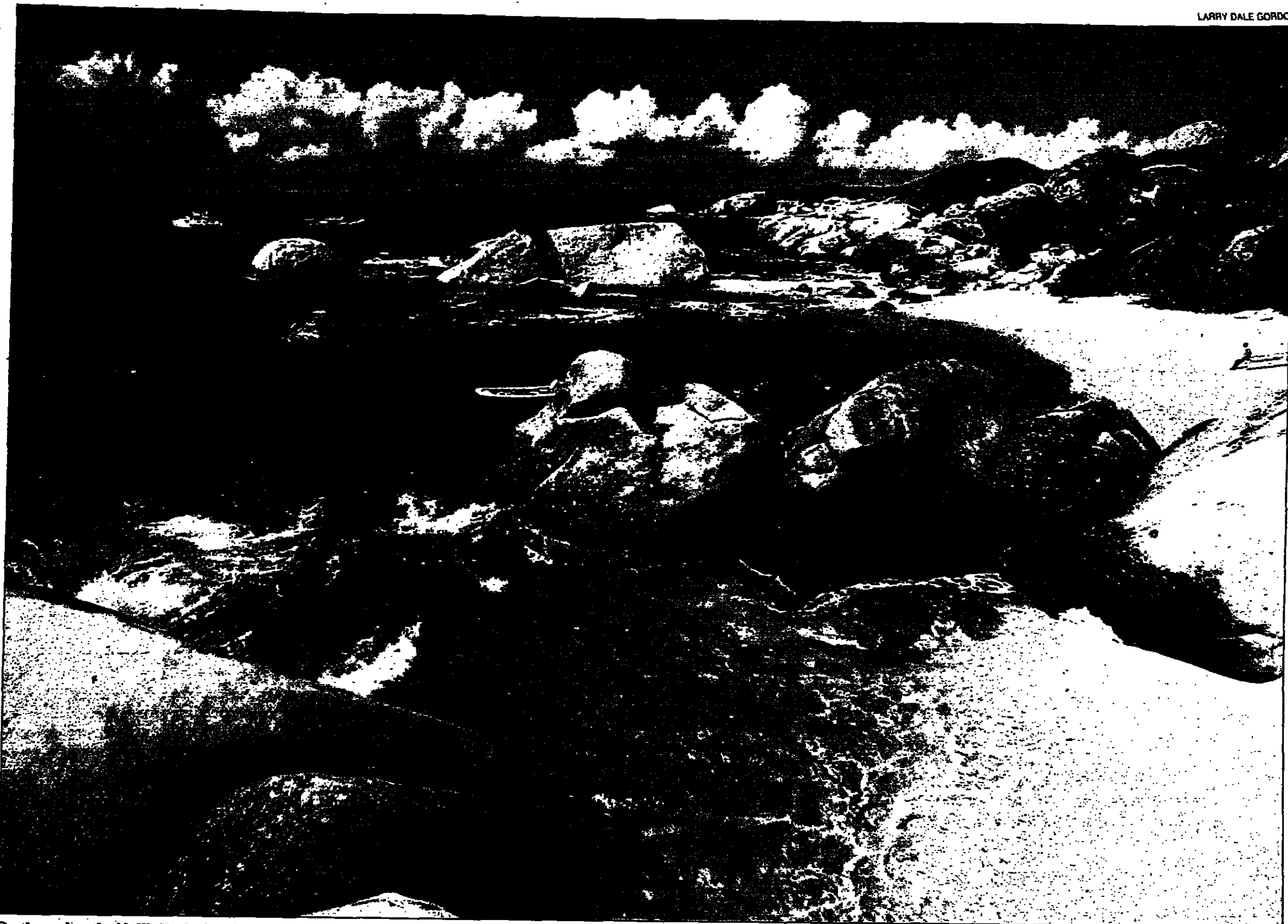
downhill. The paucity of inhabitants and lack of official awareness in the islands determined a future which had scant administrative guidance from either Whitehall or Washington. Indeed, President Hoover once described the American Virgins as an "effective poorhouse".

That has all changed. The modest Virgins fluttered their eyelashes at both benefactors and detractors so that the ineluctable process of gilding the lily was put into motion. What one experiences today — in the British as well as US islands — is the ultimate extension of the American Dream: an environment with which the cast of *Dynasty* would readily identify. It is sugary. It is banal. It is, to quote a local guidebook, "Paradise, and you are welcome. Enjoy." I couldn't have put it better myself.

It is also a raving success, entirely faithful to its own ideals. It is no good looking for substance in a meringue; when all is said and done, a meringue is a matter of skillful flourish. A sense of perspective is required, dispensed in my case by a Cruzan cab driver. "What you'll like about St Croix," he announced, "is that a bottle of rum is cheaper than a hamburger." With Socratic clarity, he reduced the adman's purple prose to mumbo-jumbo. Hamburgers may be the staff of life, but it's rum that makes the world go round. And round. His philosophy was free: his fare steeper than I expected.

Re-oriented, I warmed to St Croix. I admired the fretwork architecture of Christiansted; I doted on Frederiksted's gingerbread houses. Exploring Buck Island Reef, I was dazzled by the frivolous, filmy attire worn by underwater creatures.

On Sunday morning I sat on the steps of a battered, lovely Moravian church, fielding the halcyons which the congregation batted to long-leg-



On the rocks: the idyllic Baths beach on Virgin Gorda, where time has stood still and everyone is called Flax, O'Neal or Stevens — the names of the old slavemaster families, who ruled with whips

TRAVEL NOTES

Michael Watkins's trip to and through the Virgin Islands was arranged by Elegant Resorts, Lion House, 23 Watergate Row, Chester, CH1 2LE. Tel: 0244-329671. It will tailor-make arrangements: for example, staying at Rockresorts' hotels, six nights at Caneel Bay, St John, eight nights at Little Dix Bay, Virgin Gorda, is £2,350 a person in low season; high season, December 15 to April 15, £3,185, including British Airways economy flights, full board, island transfers.



Beauty in isolation: looking across the water to Saba Island

At Whim Plantation I considered the sins of our fathers, wondering about the sorrows descended from a slave culture whose wounds went deep.

And when I'd done these thoughtful things I flew to the island of St John, which very sensibly has no airport. "Landing on Water is Fun", declared the Seaplane Shuttle logo; and so it was. I stayed at Caneel Bay Hotel, in a cottage on a 170-acre estate, so perfect, so immaculate, so tuned into celestial vibrations. This was not always so, as I discovered from some letters: "... St John may well be called No-man's Land. The people recognize their neglect and never cease to murmur. As the Creole saying puts it, 'St John behin' God's face'." The date is 1938.

Covering St John by bus I saw mangrove, frangipani, flaming flamboyant. Not many people, but a view at every corner. In the evening I returned to the letters: "1835

— Though 19-year-old Harriet called herself free, she would feel her servitude when she was flogged with a tanned whip". Emancipation? Go tell it on the mountain!

By this time I longed to see a couple of old friends; so I caught a ferry to Virgin Gorda, which hadn't changed a scrap since my last visit. No one gets any older and everyone is still called O'Neal, Stevens or Flax, names adopted no doubt from their slave-masters.

Andy Flax — builder, taxi-driver, hotel-keeper, story-teller, happy man if ever I saw one — took me about again. We went to the Baths, those huge granite boulders forming salt-water grottoes. We toured the valley where most of the 1,500 population live. We passed the police station, with two cells for those who get the rum-wobblers. Andy dropped me at Gun

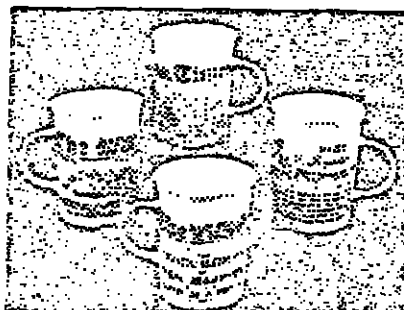
Point, from where I puttered across the water, past Bitter End, to Saba Reef, a micro-island where Bert Kilbride has perched for years waiting for his dream to come true. He's 75 now, with two new hip replacements and a new young wife, Gayla, since we last met. Since 1948 he's been diving for sunken treasure off Anegada Reef. There are 147 wrecks down there, several from the Spanish fleet; so there's gold all right. He's brought up cannons, skulls, and Coca-Cola cans. But no gold. He'd be chuffed if he struck a chest of doubloons; but I don't think he's much bothered.

You have been very patient about my golf lesson. Well, after a bit Greg-the-pro decreed that we would try a hole, par for which was three. The light was not the best and I was playing with borrowed clubs, but I sunk my putt in 29 — which, according to Greg, was quite rare.

STEVE BENBOW

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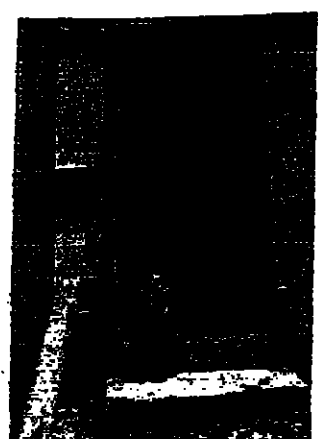
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Village life: bright colours radiate from the shops and homes on Tortola, which has been British since 1672

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19 1988

Southport making up for lost time

The first round proper of the FA Cup takes place today. For non-League teams this is their big chance against League opposition. Southport are one of those aiming to cause an upset, but as Paul Newman writes, the mood there is as much nostalgic as hopeful

Southport has never been a place to get too emotional about its football team, but one or two wistful tears may be shed in the seaside town this afternoon.

When Port Vale meet Southport in the first round of the FA Cup today they will be the first Football League team to play a competitive match at Haig Avenue since the Lancashire club was voted out of the fourth division 10 years ago.

Southport, who lost their place to Wigan Athletic, were the last club to fall by the League wayside before the enlightened change to automatic promotion and relegation between the fourth division and the GM Vauxhall Conference two seasons ago. At the time of Southport's departure, to be voted out of the League effectively meant leaving for good and the impact on a club was usually devastating. Southport staggered from one crisis to another and twice went to the brink of extinction.

Although the path back into the League is now clear, Southport's scars still need time to heal before a return can be realistically contemplated. Today will probably be more a reminder of happier days than a taste of things to come.

The elegant town has always been a popular home for footballers. Thirty of the club's former League players still live there and today's residents also include Kenny Dalglish, Alan Hansen, Tony Cottee, Graeme Sharp, Kevin Sheedy, and Pat Nevin.

Yet the fact that the big Merseyside clubs are within easy reach only a few miles down the road was probably the greatest cause of Southport's downfall. They were never able regularly to attract good attendances. In the 1972-73 season, when they won the fourth division championship, they averaged 3,580, the previous lowest for a championship-winning club was more than 9,000.

Yet Southport had their moments of glory, particularly in the FA Cup. In 1931 they became the first club from the third division north to reach the last eight; they lost 9-1 at Everton in the quarter-finals. One year later a crowd of 20,010 - still the club record - watched a fourth round replay against Newcastle United. Southport drew 1-1 and lost the second replay at Hillsborough 9-0.

In 1968 only a Joe Royle goal separated Southport from Everton in a third round match at Haig Avenue in front of nearly 19,000 spectators. It was in the same year that Southport made their only appearance on national television. Many *Match of the Day* viewers were so impressed by a 3-3 draw at Swindon Town that they tele-



Past and present: above, the 1931 Southport team that reached the last eight of the FA Cup when in the third division north; left, the programme that commemorated the club's last match in the Football League; and right, the present day squad flanked by its manager, Mick Taylor (left) and chairman, Charles Clapham

phoned the BBC to ask why more third division football was not televised. Stan Mortensen, Jimmy Meadows, George Mutch and Peter Withe all had spells at Haig Avenue either at the start or end of their careers, but Southport were never able to cash in on the transfer market and directors were forever having to dip into their own pockets.

However, when the end came in 1978 Southport probably had good reason to feel hard done by. Although they had applied for re-election three years in succession, they had not finished bottom in any of those seasons and had been fourth division champions only five years previously.

Geoff Wilde, one of the programme editors, brought out a special edition for the final match that year, ostensibly to celebrate the club's fiftieth season in the

League. "But that wasn't the real reason," he said. "I think we all sensed that it could be our last match in the League and we wanted to mark the occasion."

"When we did go out a few tears were shed, but there has been no lasting impact locally. The town never took much notice of the club when it was in the League and it didn't seem to miss League football much afterwards."

Southport have played in the Northern Premier League ever since without any significant success, although they have enjoyed some good runs recently in knock-out competitions. Attendances at one stage dropped to an average of around 200 - the club record low of 77 was recorded in extreme weather conditions in February this year - but have crept up recently to more than 300.

A crowd limit of 6,500 has been imposed for the visit of Port Vale and the club has had to spend some £10,000 on ground repairs. Half the 1,900 seats in the impressive stand - built after the previous wooden structure burned down on Boxing Day night, 1966 - were broken and all the terracing had to be demolished last season because it was unsafe.

Today, under the pragmatic chairmanship of Charles Clapham and the enterprising management of Mick Taylor, there are reasons for optimism. Clapham says: "We hope we've put our financial problems behind us and we're getting on now with the long-term aim of getting back into the League. I believe this match has already shown that the town could support a League club again, because it has stirred up a huge amount of interest locally."

Taylor believes strongly in the possibility

of an upset today against opponents who are riding high in the third division and knocked out Tottenham Hotspur last season. Most of the Southport players have had experience with League clubs and Taylor believes they have the quality to rise to the big occasion.

Win, lose or draw, many memories will be stirred. Graham Rowlands, one of the present team, is the grandson of Jack Little, a member of the highly successful Cup side of 1931. And in the crowd, as she is at almost every home match, will be Phyllis Semple, the widow of Billy, a Scot who served Southport as player, trainer and groundsman for 51 years. She has seen it all before: her husband first played for the club in 1912, nine years before it won that prize to be cherished above all others, membership of the Football League.

Norman puts a brake on Britain

Port Douglas (Reuter) - A revitalized Greg Norman restricted Britain to a 3½ to 2½ points lead over Australia on the opening day of their inaugural golf international yesterday.

Norman and Craig Parry secured Australia's only score when they halved with Sandy Lyle and Gordon Brand junior in the morning foursomes. In the afternoon four-balls, Norman and David Graham overwhelmed Ian Woosnam and Mark James 6 and 4. Norman shooting five birdies and three eagles.

Lyle and Brand lost to Rodger Davis and Parry to leave the match, played on a Ryder Cup basis, finely balanced. "I guess if we could have kept going we would have shot 57 or 58," said Norman, back to form after finishing last of 30 in the PGA championship of golf tournament in California on Sunday.

Norman's charge was needed after Australia trailed 2½ to ½. "I feel I can get back to the way I played in 1986," Norman, who is to trim his 1989 commitments, said. "I've sorted my priorities and feel good."

Norman's charge was needed after Australia trailed 2½ to ½. "I feel I can get back to the way I played in 1986," Norman, who is to trim his 1989 commitments, said. "I've sorted my priorities and feel good."

Bob Gilder, spurred on by the sight of John Mahaffey pulling away from the field, birdied his final four holes for a 64 and climbed level at 129 at the halfway stage of the international tournament here. Gilder and Mahaffey bettered Andy Bean's record for 36 holes on the 6,761-yard Kapalua Bay course by two strokes after starting the day two behind Bill Glasson.

SCORES: Second round leaders (US unless stated): 128: J Mahaffey, 65: 64: R Gilder, 65: 64: 122: W Glasson, 64: 60: 124: C Paver, 67: 67: 125: J Muir, 70: 65: 126: R Lohr, 68: 67: M O'Meara, 67: 69: M O'Grady, 66: 70: D Rummels, 67: 69: S Fife, 66: 67.

● Miyazaki (AP) - Fred Couples followed his record 62 with a 71 yesterday but still increased his lead to five strokes in the Dunlop Phoenix tournament here as only Ken Green and Jeff Sluman mastered the wind with four-under-par 68s to join Hubert Green in the chasing pack. Gerverano Ballesteros also awoke from his disappointment of the first day when scoring conditions were ideal to shoot a 69.

SCORES: Phoenix tournament, Second round (Japanese unless stated): 135: F Couples, 71: 128: J Sluman, 69: 70: 68: H Green, 68: 70: K Green, 68: 70: 68: 128: H Meshai, 67: 72: R Mackay (Aus), 70: 65: 1: Nelson (US), 68: 73: Other scores: 140: G Marsh (Aus), 72: 68, Chen Tze-chung (Taiwan), 65: 75: S Tway (US), 67: 71: S Ballesteros (Sp), 72: 68.

Fever fails to stop Graf's momentum

New York (AP) - Steffi Graf, weakened by influenza, won her 46th consecutive match with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Manuela Maleeva in the quarter-finals of the Virginia Slims tennis championships.

The defending champion and top seed will meet in the semi-finals Pam Shriver, who beat Chris Evert 7-5, 6-4 in her quarter-final.

Graf, who won the Grand Slam and an Olympic gold medal this year, beat Maleeva for the tenth consecutive time despite a fever and cold that forced her to stop several times to blow her nose. Maleeva, a pure baseliner, was no match for Graf's mix of sliced backhands, blistering top spin forehands and deft drop shots.

After Maleeva held serve to open the match, Graf won seven games in a row before her Bulgarian opponent

Rangers vulnerable as injury problems mount

By Roddy Forsyth

With one third of the Scottish League campaign now completed, the title race is poised to enter a particularly intriguing phase. Rangers still head the table but having been dismissed from the UEFA Cup by Cologne, and decisively beaten by Celtic at Parkhead last week, they appear to be vulnerable.

A common refrain in Glasgow bars is the suggestion that Rangers' lavish transfer spending should have bought them some kind of immunity from setbacks, but few teams anywhere could have withstood the loss, without disruption, of such players as Ian Durrant and Ally McCoist through injury, not to mention Chris Woods, Gary Stevens, Mark Walters and Neale Cooper, all of whom were indisposed yesterday and who were rated as having an even chance of playing in today's visit to Dundee at Dens Park.

The effect of such a substantial casualty list was to prevent the Rangers management naming a squad for this afternoon's match, a fixture which will be followed by hazardous encounters with Dundee United and Aberdeen.

The fact that Rangers stand three points clear of their nearest rivals is testimony to the momentum built up by the side, when something approaching the full Brox strength was available earlier in the season. Now the League leaders must demonstrate that they have learned enough of the professional standards demanded by Graeme Souness to see them through a tricky sequence of games.

Any slip by Rangers would benefit Aberdeen if the Pittodrie side should beat Motherwell at home. Mother-

Former director fined for locking up referee

Douglas Park, the former Heart of Midlothian director, who resigned two weeks ago after an irreconcilable difference of opinion with the club's chairman, Wallace Mercer, was yesterday fined £1,000 by the Scottish League management committee, over an incident which took place at the end of the Rangers v Hearts match on September 17 (Roddy Forsyth writes).

The committee agreed that Park had locked the match referee, David Syme, in his dressing room after the game and issued a statement which read: "The committee, after careful and lengthy delibera-

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WESSEX ROOF

Hearn takes pains to secure sponsorship

By Steve Acteson

Barry Hearn's fight for sponsorship for his World Matchplay snooker venture has conquered Everest, the double gazing company.

The sponsors have agreed prize-money of £250,000 including snooker's first £100,000 going to the winner of the event, to be staged in Brentwood next month.

The deal also gives Trans World International, Mark McCormack's television company, the first British event to be screened without the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association holding the television rights.

Hero's welcome for Vatanen...



In 1984 the Finnish driver Ari Vatanen won the RAC Rally (left). The following year,

he almost died in a crash.

Now, Andrew Longmore reports, he's back with a vengeance

It is bare fact that Ari Vatanen last competed in the Lombard RAC Rally when he won it in 1984: pure emotion to say that something has been missing from the rally since then. It is not simply a lack of excitement or skill — there has been plenty of both — but more a sense of expectancy.

Vatanen in a car cannot help being spectacular, any more than George Best could resist taking on one more defender — just for the hell of it. For that reason alone, Vatanen will be assured of a hero's welcome tomorrow when he returns to the haunts of his first daredevilry more than a decade ago. But there will be more to it than that. Behind the crowd's traditional love of a showman, there will be robust praise for the miracle of life.

Just over three years ago, when Vatanen was pulled from the wreckage of his Peugeot after a high-speed accident in Argentina, the only certainty was that he would die in the helicopter on the way to hospital. His blood pressure was one-third of normal and the readings had to be falsified by the team's doctor to persuade the locals that he was strong enough to be moved. His oxygen level was well below the accepted limits for life: his face was blue.

Somehow Vatanen survived, but that proved the easy part. Physically, he was well on the way to recovery within three months. Mentally, it took him one year and one month. He can remember the days clearly.

"One month after I got back to the UK, the depression

struck. I was sure I was going to die; I was sure we were all going to die," he says. "It was absolutely hopeless. I lived from one minute to the next. Then, in the summer of 1986, my brother took me to the start of the 1,000 Lakes Rally, a place I know very well, and from the moment I saw it, I knew it was all over. It was like waking from a nightmare."

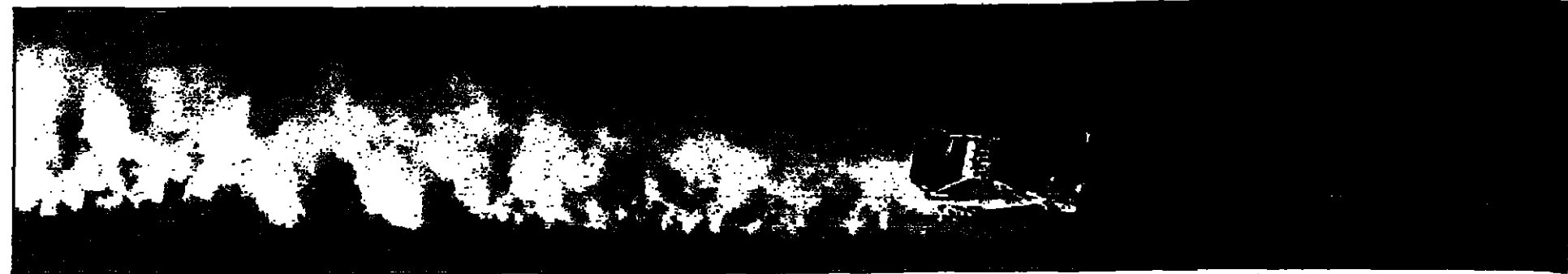
A few days later, Vatanen was back at the wheel of a rally car; six months later, he was driving a Peugeot to win the Paris-Dakar, the most dangerous rally of all. But for another six months, Vatanen could not talk about his illness. When he finally did so, it was in an article in a Finnish medical magazine.

"I had lots of very positive response from people with similar psychological problems, who said it was fantastic to know you could come out of it because when you are there, you think you are all alone in the world."

At the age of 36, Vatanen wears those missing years surprisingly well. Niki Lauda's ravaged face and haunted eyes tell of his similar horror; Vatanen's face is still clear and fresh, although the head is a lifetime wiser.

"The accident was a watershed. I am a more relaxed person now, not so ready to condemn people with different views, and I can appreciate every day so much more now that I have seen the murky side of the coin."

Vatanen was brought up against a strong Christian background, and the traumas have strengthened his faith: "The soul needs food as well



Heat and dust: Ari Vatanen and his co-driver Berglund head for defeat in January's Paris-Dakar Rally, the most dangerous of them all — being in Africa, he says, was "a real eye-opener"



Portrait of a self-confessed "hooligan driver": Ari Vatanen and his Peugeot 405 T16 during the 1988 Paris-Dakar Rally

as the body needs," he says in his Anglo-Finnish. He also thinks he is a better driver: "I have no need to be so desperate now, because I know OK, if I don't win this rally, I can win the next one, and that has had a positive effect on my driving. I make fewer mistakes, and because I don't try

so hard I squeeze more out of myself. "Looking back, it does frighten me what I used to do, but when you are young you take risks and only later do you find out they were risks. Yes, I have been a real hooligan at the steering wheel. I get carried away, then I slide

a bit wide, hit something, and that brings me back to reality, but by then it is too late," he says with a shrug.

But if cars have given him the spirit of life, they have also shown him the shadow of death — not just his own. When Vatanen was eight, his father was killed in a head-on

collision while driving the whole family in his new car. The rest survived, but it was four years before his mother got another car. As soon as she did, Ari had to have a look. "I just needed to find out what all the levers were."

Such enthusiasm was the bane of the works Ford team

MAKING OF A CHAMPION

1952 Born April 27.
1964 Drove his first car at the age of 12.
1975 Made first appearance in the RAC Rally, aged 23.
1976 Became British champion driving a Ford Escort.
1980 Won his first world championship victory in the Acropolis Rally in a privately-prepared Ford Escort.
1981 Became world champion, also in an Escort, securing the championship by finishing second in the RAC Rally.
1982 Moved to live in England.
1984 Joined Peugeot and won the 1,000 Lakes Rally in Finland, San Remo and, for the first time, the RAC Rally, the turbo-charged Peugeot 205 T16 beating the Audi Quattro of Hannu Mikkola by a mere 41 seconds.
1985 Won the Monte Carlo and Swedish rallies for Peugeot. Crashed in Argentina in July and out of competitive rallying for 18 months.
1987 Returned to rallying to win Paris-Dakar for Peugeot.
1988 Won the Pike's Peak sprint in America and the Pharoahs Rally. Signed for Mitsubishi for selected world championship events, starting with the RAC Rally.

as, in rally after rally during the Seventies, the young Finn interspersed devastating speed with lurid accidents. The crowd loved him, the mechanics were not so sure. Ari meant a lot of overtime.

But in 1981, ironically the year after the factory Ford team had pulled out of the world championship, Vatanen stayed on the road long enough to become world champion, driving a privately-prepared Ford Escort. When he joined the Peugeot team three years later, another title seemed assured; but it never quite happened, and by the time Vatanen returned after the crash, Peugeot had turned their resources towards endurance events like the Paris-Dakar and one-off events like Pike's Peak in America.

Had he missed the world championship? Yes and no, he replies diplomatically enough for both his old masters at Peugeot and his new ones at Mitsubishi. "Being in Africa was a real eye-opener, not just from the competitive point of view but from human experience. But now I would like to do more world championship events and less of those."

Vatanen is contracted to do

four or five world championship events for Mitsubishi next season in preparation for a full challenge to Lancia and Toyota in 1990. The RAC is the next few days is very much a toe in the water for the team, but manager Andrew Cowan, Vatanen's old adversary on the Paris-Dakar, knows at least that he has the best driver. "Just his presence has lifted the morale of the whole team," he says.

What is most important to the Finn is that he is back rallying in the country which has become his second home.

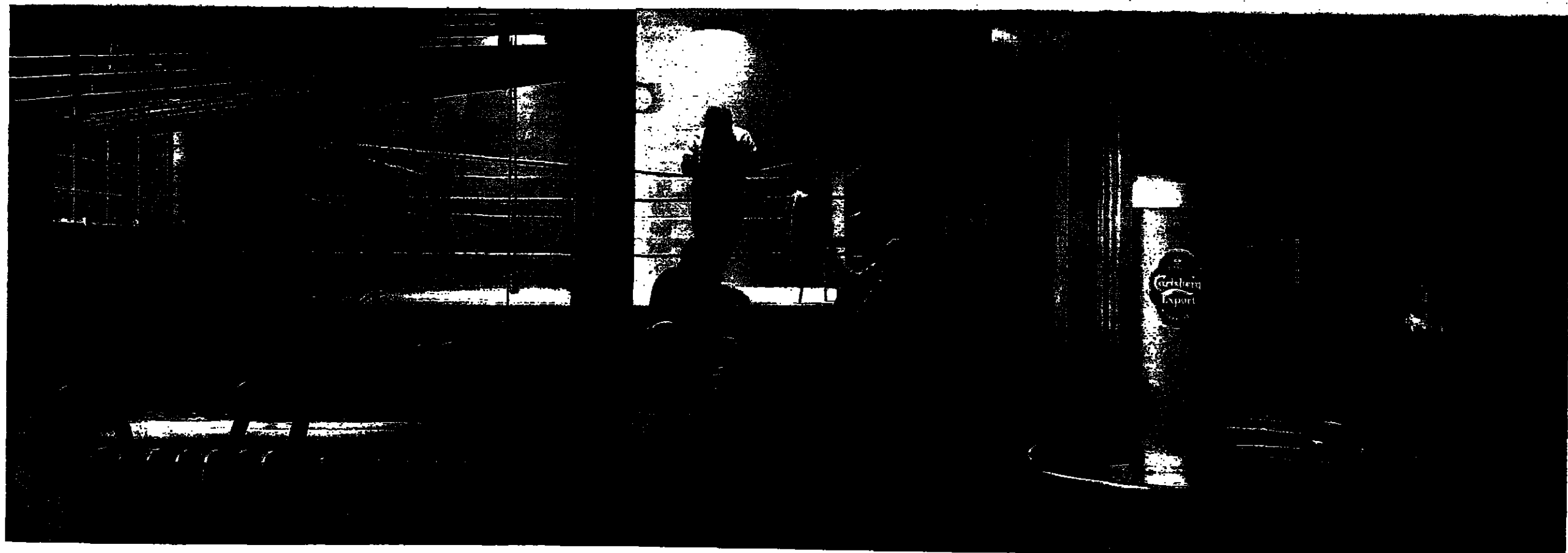
"My roots and my heart are in Finland, but with my strong British connections, there has been something missing when I have not done the RAC. It brings back so many memories, because there are so many places where I have gone off."

Whatever the experiences of the last three years, deep within him, he says, the daredevil — the "main core", as he calls it — is alive and well. "The difference is that while I always knew life was a gift, now I feel it in concrete terms. It just would have been nice to learn that an easier way."

Surely it was the night Ali proved he was the greatest when he whupped SMOKIN' JOE in Manila.

No, never... TONY ZALE v. ROCKY GRAZIANO. It wasn't a fight, it was a war.

Come on, nothing can equal the LEONARD, DURAN rematch.



Some CLASSICS are beyond debate.



...in RAC

Rallying to a cause against the elements

By Andrew Longmore

If the Australian Grand Prix heralded the end of the turbo era in Formula One, the Lombard RAC Rally, which starts in Harrogate tomorrow morning, could mark a long-awaited change in rallying's balance of power.

For the second consecutive year, the Lancia team has dominated world rallying, winning nine out of 10 world championship rounds with the Delta Integrales. But, for the first time, a realistic challenger has emerged in the sleek shape of the four-wheel drive Toyota Celica.

Toyota has led all the four rallies it has run, retiring almost within sight of its first victory in the 1,000 Lakes rally in Finland, and it only needs to add a little reliability to its undoubted speed to topple Lancia for the first time. With three European-based factory cars — for Juha Kankkunen, Kenneth Eriksson and Bjorn Waldegard — and one from Toyota GB for Jimmy McRae, it is mounting the strongest challenge yet to the Italians, whose own two-car team is led by Markku Alen.

With Mitsubishi introducing the Galant to Group A, Mazda fresh from success in the Australian rally after a wretched season and the spectacular Ford Sierras waiting to pick up the pieces, this is the strongest field to enter the RAC for some years.

The list of more than 180 entrants includes six former world champions — Bjorn Waldegard (Toyota), Hannu Mikkola (Mazda), Timo Salonen (Mazda), Ari Vatanen (Mitsubishi), Juha Kankkunen (Toyota) and Stig Blomqvist (Ford) — and that is not including the former world sports car champion, Derek Bell, in the Vauxhall Astra.

By common consent, the itinerary for the event this year is not as tough as in previous years, even though an extra day has been added. The route covers 1,750 miles

through England, Wales and Scotland, taking in 52 special stages, with up to 12,000 marshalls controlling an estimated crowd of more than two million.

Kankkunen after a poor season, in which he uncharacteristically threw away his lead in the San Remo rally, will be particularly anxious to end the year in style.

Realistically, the winner must come from Lancia or Toyota. On the tarmac of the first day, the two-wheel drive Fords should prove competitive but on the mud and gravel of the Welsh forests on the second day, the four-wheel drive Lancias and Toyotas will undoubtedly show their class. Kankkunen thrives on long, tough rallies, but there is a strong feeling that the veteran Waldegard, the first ever world rally champion, will mark his return to the RAC with a win.

There are many other intriguing aspects to this year's event: the traditional rivalry between the Finns, Kankkunen and Alen, team colleagues last year and team leaders this season, the return of Ari Vatanen after a three-year absence, and the challenge of the British drivers led by McRae, who will be hoping to be the first British driver to win his home rally since Roger Clark in 1976.

The RAC has always been as much about the amateurs as the professionals, about the likes of Jim Smith, who won a drive on the RAC in the *Radio Times*/Top Gear competition, and about thalidomide victim, Ken Ridley, who has completed all his three previous RAC rallies. If they arrive back at Harrogate at 2.45 p.m. next Thursday they will have achieved their aim. All, in their way, will be winners.

THE FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE MEN AND MACHINES TO WATCH

The teams

MARTINI LANCIA: Car: Lancia Delta Integrales. Drivers/co-drivers (numbers): Markku Alen (1), Mikael Ericsson (2), Mikael Ericsson/Claes Billstam (7). World championship-winning team for the past two years. Quick, reliable and favourites for the event.

TOYOTA TEAM EUROPE: Car: Toyota Celica GT-Four. Drivers/co-drivers (numbers): Juha Kankkunen (1), Bjorn Waldegard (2), Bjorn Waldegard/Fred Gallacher (11). The team's first RAC challenge since 1985. Desperate to mark return with a victory.

FORD: Car: Ford Sierra RS Cosworth. Drivers/co-drivers (numbers): Stig Blomqvist/Benny Melander (3), Carlos Sainz/Luis Alvarez (2). The team won the Corsican rally and Blomqvist was a hero second here last year. Cannot match the speed of Toyota and Lancia in RAC conditions, but always spectacular.

MAZDA TEAM EUROPE: Car: Mazda 626. Drivers/co-drivers (numbers): Timo Salonen/Volvo Slander (4), Hannu Mikkola/Christian Geistdortler (10). Australian victory last year boosted morale, and with

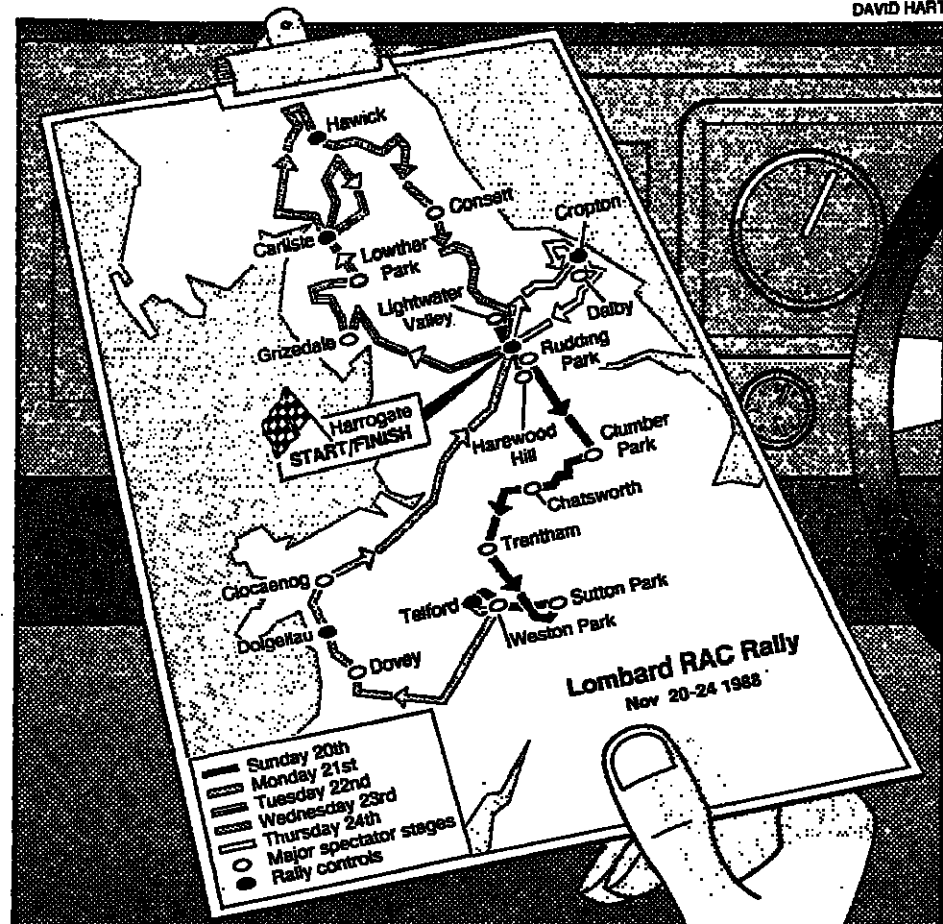
two former world champion drivers, not short of experience.

MITSUBISHI RALLIART EUROPE: Car: Mitsubishi Galant VR-4. Drivers/co-drivers (numbers): Ari Vatanen/Bruno Berglund (5), Kenjiro Shinozuka/John Meadows (4). First Group A entry for four-wheel drive and four-wheel steering. An unknown quantity, but if it has potential, Vatanen will find it.

TOYOTA GB: Car: Toyota Celica GT-Four. Drivers/co-drivers (numbers): Jimmy McRae/Rob Arthur (8). One-off drive for the experienced McRae. Same specification as TTE cars but prepared by RED in Wigan. McRae's best chance of victory but four-wheel drive cars take a bit of learning.

JUHA KANKKUNEN (Fin, Toyota): Last year's winner and world champion. Determined to beat his former team colleagues from Lancia. Many people's idea of the winner.

MARKKU ALLEN (Fin, Lancia): Has never won the RAC or the world championship. Very popular, very competitive but still prone to making mistakes. Badly wants to set the record straight.



STIG BLOMQVIST (Swe, Ford): A veteran of the RAC and twice a winner, in 1971 and 1973. Out-paced by team colleague Sainz in world championship this year but the RAC brings out his best.

HANNU MIKKOLA (Fin, Mazda): Between 1977 and 1984 finished second four times and first four times, a record unlikely ever to be beaten. Returning after a two-year absence and still competitive.

KENNETH ERIKSSON (Swe, Toyota): Antics last year kept everyone on their toes and the VW Golf on its roof. Hard charge, quick but erratic. Needs a good result to strengthen his place in the team.

TIMO SALONEN (Fin, Mazda): World champion in 1985 with Peugeot and RAC winner the following year. Quiet time since then but always quick. If car is good enough, he will be.

MIKAEL ERIKSSON (Swe, Lancia): Overshadowed in Lancia team by Kankkunen last year. Bizarre this year, has a real chance to prove his worth. Provided he keeps four wheels on the ground, he has the ability to do so.

MALCOLM WILSON (GB, GM Dealer Sport): One of several British drivers knocking on the door of top class competition.

The RAC has the lucky rally, but with the new 16 valve Astra is capable of top 10 placing.

JIMMY MCRAE (GB, Toyota): Five times British champion and third twice in the RAC. Will take time to master the Toyota but what he lacks in four-wheel drive experience will more than make up for in determination.

The history
1932: First RAC rally won by Colonel A H Loughborough in a Lanchester.
1932-33: RAC continues as a motorised jamboree. Over 300 starters from different venues each year.

1951: RAC restarted after the War. Four different starting points. No official outright winner.
1957: Rally cancelled due to petrol rationing as result of Suez crisis.

1960: Beginning of era of Scandinavian domination. Erik Carlsson won first of his three RAC rallies in a Saab. Development of modern rally with special stages.

1971: Last time Harrogate staged RAC. Rally reduced to chaos by snow.
1972: Roger Clark wins for Britain in Ford Escort. Escort wins next seven RAC rallies.
1981: Four-wheel drive turbo-

charged Audi Quattro wins, heralding the era of the supercar.
1987: First year of less powerful Group A cars. Juha Kankkunen wins to become first driver to win world title.

Spectator guide
RAC four-star recommended spectator stages
TOMORROW: 08.30: Lightwater Valley (Ripon). 08.50: Harwood Hill (Harrogate). 10.30: Ruffing Park (Harrogate). 12.30: Cumber Park (Workshop). 13.45: Chatsworth (Chesterfield). 15.30: Trentham (Stoke). 16.30: Sutton Park (Birmingham). 17.20: Weston Park (Telford). 18.30: Overnight halt in Telford.

MONDAY: 07.00: restart from Telford. 07.20: Weston Park (Telford). 11.10: "Sweet Lamb" (Langrui). 21.30: Overnight halt (Harrogate Exhibition Centre).
TUESDAY: 13.25: Lowther Park (Ripon). 20.10: Overnight halt in Carlisle.

WEDNESDAY: 19.00: overnight halt Harrogate (Exhibition Centre).
THURSDAY: 14.45: Finish of rally at Harrogate Exhibition Hall.

Booked for foul that dare not speak its name

Simon Barnes

When you are bankrupt, you are supposed to stop trading, but football, morally bankrupt, just keeps on writing cheques, failing to notice that no one accepts them anymore. Just when you think that the game has come to its senses, in comes another whopping great cheque, written under the illusion that football still has untold gold in its account.

This week, the problem is Viv Anderson and his comments on the professional foul in his newly published biography. The Football Association announces that his comments will be investigated. Eric Dinnie, an FA spokesman, said: "These comments are very unfortunate, and it does nothing for the image of the game."

What Anderson has done is not so very startling. He has said if an opponent gets through and is odd-on to score, then he will bring him down illegally. "Probably my views are wrong, but I'm a professional, and I can't just let somebody run through and put the ball in the net without doing something about it."

Your average watcher of football is likely to read that, shake the head sadly, and read on. We know, we know. It matches every Saturday, every match. Any defender who is critically beaten and likely to give away a goal will respond illegally. It happens to be the way the game is played.

A professional sees it as a matter of trade: a booking and a free kick is a better deal than a goal. Even a penalty is better than a certain goal, for penalties are sometimes saved. It is a matter of balancing profit and loss. Everyone who goes to football matches knows this, may well dislike it, but cannot deny the truth of it.

So what has Anderson done wrong? The answer is simple: he has said this out loud. He has said what everyone knows are the facts of life for a defender.

No, the correct thing to do is to play the hypocrite. That is to "image" means. You give 'em a load of pious blather that no one is going to believe, and the FA will think you are a good old boy. Anderson's shame is that, in an unusually intelligent football book, he has told the truth: he has come



clean about the foul that dare not speak its name.

As revelations go, it is hardly news. It is on a par with Journalists Go To Pub Shock. One may approve or disapprove, but everyone knows it happens all the time. Like everyone else who watches the game, I hate the professional foul.

Managers may get very pious about the professional foul, but they put pressure on defenders to commit them. If a defender could have stopped a goal but refused to do so in the name of mere legality, he would be in trouble. The manager may not say: "Bring him down next time." But if the defender refuses to do so often enough, and thereby gives away goals, he is hardly likely to stay in the team. You do not get League points for moral virtues. Managers do not keep their jobs because of their unflinching ethics.

The fact is that the deliberate foul outside the box is insufficiently punished by the rules, which makes it an obvious option for the beaten defender. The FA's creditable attempts to introduce sendings-off as automatic punishment for these offences was shamefully put into reverse by the international body, FIFA. And so inevitably, such illegal manoeuvres continue everywhere you find football.

Everyone knows this, and to say that the image of football is damaged by stating this truth is to be willfully blind. Only a deeply rooted love of hypocrisy for its own sake could possibly prompt the Football Association to bring any kind of censure.

Perhaps they feel he has brought the game into disrepute. But the fact is that football is already just about as disreputable as it can get, and to cling to a few remaining shreds of hypocrisy is not going to convince anybody that this is not so.

* Viv Anderson by Andrew Longmore. Published by Heinemann Kingswood, £10.95.

Shift of spotlight puts Venables under scrutiny

By Clive White

It seems that there is no escape for Terry Venables, the Tottenham Hotspur manager. In common with Bobby Robson, his tormentor international counterpart, he must wish that he could play a few games behind closed doors. But no chance.

Tomorrow he and Tottenham merely exchange the spotlight for the arc lamps of ITV television as they take on Sheffield Wednesday in the live game at Hillsborough. On the face of it, it seems another awkward one for Tottenham, the only club in the first division yet to win away from home.

Should results conspire against them today, Tottenham could kick-off in bottom place again. Understandably, it ruffles with Venables that their plight has not been helped by the deduction of two points for failing to fulfil their opening day fixture with Coventry City. In a veiled reference to Wimbledon, he complained that it was illogical that a club could be deducted points for failing to stage a game but only fined when its players accumulated a record number of disciplinary points. Tottenham are to appeal against their punishment on November 30 — two days before Wimbledon go before an FA disciplinary committee to explain their disciplinary record.

Tottenham's hard-earned victory over Wimbledon last Saturday was at a cost; Stevens, who suffered a serious knee injury in a painful collision with Jones, faces a lengthy absence and his place in the team, aged 19, makes his full League debut.

But a team which has to depend upon Sterling, the England right back in Saudi Arabia in midweek, for its goal supply should not offer too serious a threat to Tottenham and Venables may succeed where Robson failed in disappointing his critics, albeit with another draw.

While the events in Riyadh will have been a source of much misery to most people in England, George Graham, the Arsenal manager, must have been reasonably happy and not just because he is Scottish. All five of his representatives remain home fit from their sojourn in the desert to face Middlesbrough today in a game which could bring them within one point of Norwich.

Middlesbrough face a court battle after announcing that they are refusing to pay nine cash claims, totalling £700,000, from people who were directors and

associates before liquidation of the club two years ago. The club's chairman, Colin Henderson, said Middlesbrough (1986) had paid £1.5 million to creditors and liquidation costs in line with an agreement with the Football League made on the eve of the 1986-87 season.

The new club has consistently refused to pay the nine claims because they are outside the scope of that agreement. Henderson added: "Middlesbrough are seeking a declaration from the court that they do not have to meet these claims and that they have fulfilled their obligations in all other respects."

However, the former club chairman, Charles Amer, reacted angrily, saying: "If Henderson goes ahead with this I will sue him for non-performance of a verbal agreement. He told me in front of several witnesses that I would be paid in full." The millionaire has a £100,000 claim for work by his building firm at Ayresome Park many years ago.

Bowing out
Peking (Reuters) — Li Ning, of China, who won three gold medals in men's gymnastics at the Olympic Games in 1984 has retired from competition.

UEFA orders match to be replayed
Geneva (Reuters) — UEFA yesterday upheld a protest by the Swiss club, Neuchatel Xamax, following their 5-0 defeat in the away leg of the European Cup second-round tie against Galatasaray, Turkey, and ordered the match to be replayed on a neutral ground at a date to be decided.

The Neuchatel president, Gilbert Facchinetti, was quoted last week as saying that missiles were thrown through the second leg in Istanbul on November 9. One struck the Neuchatel substitute, Kuntz, as he was warming up.

Facchinetti said a bad foul which injured the goalkeeper, Corbinbouff, when the Swiss side was already 2-0 down, contributed to the subsequent rout. He conceded three more goals within 12 minutes.

The Turkish club, which was fined 20,000 Swiss francs (about £7,500) for its supporters' misbehaviour during the first leg, won 5-3 overall.

BELGRADE (Reuters): Major Platinas as much as the French national side he manages, will be under the spotlight today when he presides over his first match in charge, a World Cup group five qualifying game against Yugoslavia. Platinas took over after a 1-1 draw in Cyprus last month, severely dented French hopes of reaching the World Cup finals. France have never won in Yugoslavia.

Tomorrow
Sheff Wed v Tottenham
Butters makes his full League debut for Tottenham in place of Stevens (injury). Allen rejoins the squad following injury. Wednesday delay selection until today.



Stevens on the road back (Photograph: Dennis McNeelance)

Stevens calls for curb on reckless attitude

By a Special Correspondent

Gary Stevens, the Tottenham Hotspur defender who was the victim of a tackle by Vinny Jones seven days ago, hopes that the game for three months. And while he will not be taking out a private court action against Jones, he did add: "Both Vinnie and myself have given our accounts of what happened. I will leave it to the general public and my fellow professionals to come to their own conclusions."

Although he did add that, while being stretched out, "it did go through my mind my career could be in jeopardy."

We're all fellow professionals and have a responsibility to one another. Stevens expects to be out of his position for three months. And while he will not be taking out a private court action against Jones, he did add: "Both Vinnie and myself have given our accounts of what happened. I will leave it to the general public and my fellow professionals to come to their own conclusions."

Although he did add that, while being stretched out, "it did go through my mind my career could be in jeopardy."

Non-League giants may be killed off

By Paul Newman

In any other recent season Eddie Bairstow, who has been considered likely candidates to cause an FA Cup upset at home to opponents from the bottom half of the fourth division.

Yet today the GM Vauxhall Conference club goes into the first round against Leyton Orient in the middle of a dismal run — two league wins in the last three months — and a serious injury crisis. Keen, King, Edwards, Edmonds, Harding and Schiavi are all likely to be missing.

Telford United, with 10 victories over League teams in the last seven seasons, have similar problems. They have won only twice in nine home Conference matches and entertain Carlisle United without Crawley (suspended) and Stringer (injured). However, with Carlisle second to bottom of the fourth division it could be considered more of a surprise if the League team wins.

The other teams most likely to provide an upset today are the style of play, just suit opponents enjoying their best-ever season in the Conference.

Knell ready to return after injury
Philip Knell, a Rangers reject at the age of 18 after two years at Exeter Park, is expected to resume training following a knee injury (George Ace writes).

Knell, aged 19, is a talented midfielder player and has a lot of pace. He joined Linfield last year and his name is already in Billy Bingham's book for his performance in the recent UEFA Cup game in Wrexham.

Doherty and McGahey will both play for Linfield reserves this morning after several weeks on the sidelines. But with Baxter scoring plenty of goals, in McGahey's absence, Linfield take a 100 per cent league record to Seaview for this afternoon's game with Crusaders, always a difficult side to beat on their own ground.

Glentoran, boosted by their midweek win over Portadown in the Roadferry Cup semi-final, should gain a welcome three points at the expense of Distillery at the Oval. And with the injury list reduced from nine to five, a ghost of a smile is reappearing on Tommy Jackson's face.

"That win over Portadown was just the tonic we needed," the manager said yesterday. "I feel that the worst is over and I am confident we will string together some good results now."

Glentoran, the league champions, have dropped five points in their three league games so far.



FA CUP

at Chester City a year ago. Altrincham are at home to Lincoln City and Rotherham United entertain Wrexham. Ground advantage must also give a chance to Stafford Rangers (against Crewe Alexandra) and Bognor Regis Town (against Exeter City).

Working, on a 15-match unbeaten run, are confident at home to Cambridge United, who have gone out to non-League opponents in the last three seasons, and Fareham Town and Mendon each have a chance to advance to Torquay United and Reading respectively.

Yet the biggest shock could come when Fisher Athletic travel to Bristol Rovers tomorrow. Rovers are going well in the third division, but their style of play could just suit opponents enjoying their best-ever season in the Conference.

Taylor eager to put an end to speculation
Graham Taylor's public elevation as the people's choice to succeed Bobby Robson as England manager drew a typically dignified response from the Aston Villa manager last night (Chris Moore). "Any talk about me becoming the next manager of England is utterly embarrassing and whatever I say will only fuel the speculation," Taylor said.

"I came here on the basis that I would see out my four-year contract. A couple of clubs have approached the chairman to ask if they could speak to me about vacant jobs. He refused them and I am not sorry about that."

Ward have signed the Crystal Palace winger, Neil Redford for £150,000.

The Ipswich Town forward, David Lowe, has ended speculation that he was about to join West Ham United in a £500,000 deal by signing a new three-year contract with the Suffolk club.

West Ham had been chasing Lowe for several weeks and had tried to tempt the Ipswich manager, John Duncan, by offering their £100,000-rated defender, Paul Hilton.

Wimbledon have joined Oxford United in trying to sign Aston Villa's unsettled centre-forward, Gary Thompson. They expressed their interest after Thompson had turned down Oxford despite agreeing personal terms with their manager, Brian Horton. Oxford have not given up hope of reopening the deal, and with Wimbledon waiting in the wings, Thompson is to think about his future over the weekend.

The young Caesar

Detroit (AP) — Peter Sampras, aged 17, upset Tim Mayotte, the top seed and world No. 8, 6-3, 6-4 to advance to the quarter-finals alongside John McEnroe in the 1988 Caesar's tennis championship.

The poised Sampras combined a deadly forehand and blistering serve for his biggest victory. "I was supposed to leave tomorrow," Sampras said. "I played him before he lost, but I've played a lot of big matches and this time, I won. It's about time."

Deal for Clarke
Andy Clarke, the leg-spinner who threatened to quit Sussex cricket, has been offered improved wages after taking 42 wickets in his first season.

Surrey favoured
Surrey and Middlesex are expected to clash in the final of the All-England women's tennis counties tournament when 16 counties compete at Lady Eleanor Holmes school, Hampton, Middlesex today.

Record pay-outs
New York (Reuters) — The baseball World Series brought record fees. The Los Angeles Dodgers, 4-1 winners, were paid \$108,000 (about £59,000) each and Oakland Athletics \$75,000.

Brundle is second
Melbourne (AP) — Martin Brundle, of Britain, who has already clinched the world sports-prototype motor racing championship, was second in his Jaguar in yesterday's first unofficial practice for tomorrow's final race at Sandown.

Hope for Notice
Horace Notice, who relinquished the British heavyweight championship because of a detached retina, is having an operation and will become the preferential challenger if he receives medical clearance in 12 months, the British Boxing Board of Control said yesterday.

Off at a tangent
Hobart (AP) — Mati Khan, the Pakistani cricketer whose travel agent sent him to Tanzania instead of Tasmania, arrived here yesterday to take up his club contract after a five-day delay.

Heart of darkness
Bogota (AFP) — Rally drivers who find the Paris-Dakar race in the desert lacks adventure can now enter a 14,000km trek through the Andes and Amazon jungles on September 9.

Honing skills
England's netball women begin a three-match series against New Zealand on Wednesday and will have their final practice session in Birmingham this weekend after preparing themselves since December.

Tour itinerary: Today: Young England, Birmingham; Nov 21: North Region, Gateshead; 23: East of England, national, Gateshead; 26: Second international, Wembley; 28: Third international, Manchester.

Reborn Australians on song

Winnipeg Caroline 6, Boston Bruins 1;
Minnesota Stars 7, Vancouver Canucks 2;
8: New York Rangers 6, Los Angeles Kings 5.

ST. LOUIS GLADIATORS 3, PHILADELPHIA FLYERS 1: Goals by Mike Grier, 1st period; Jeff Blashaw, 2nd period. Flyers' goal by Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period. Referee: Dave Givens. Linesmen: Mike Grier, 1st period; Jeff Blashaw, 2nd period; Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period.

CALGARY FLAMINGOS 5, NEW JERSEY DEVILS 1: Goals by Mike Grier, 1st period; Jeff Blashaw, 2nd period; Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period. Flyers' goal by Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period. Referee: Dave Givens. Linesmen: Mike Grier, 1st period; Jeff Blashaw, 2nd period; Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period.

MINNESOTA NORTH STARS 7, VANCOUVER CANUCKS 1: Goals by Mike Grier, 1st period; Jeff Blashaw, 2nd period; Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period. Flyers' goal by Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period. Referee: Dave Givens. Linesmen: Mike Grier, 1st period; Jeff Blashaw, 2nd period; Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period.

NEW YORK RANGERS 6, LOS ANGELES KINGS 5: Goals by Mike Grier, 1st period; Jeff Blashaw, 2nd period; Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period. Flyers' goal by Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period. Referee: Dave Givens. Linesmen: Mike Grier, 1st period; Jeff Blashaw, 2nd period; Jeff Blashaw, 3rd period.

QUICKEN'S CLUBE: Male Brace Cant scored rounds: Rader, 1st; Mads, 2nd; Rader, 3rd; Mads, 4th; Rader, 5th; Mads, 6th; Rader, 7th; Mads, 8th; Rader, 9th; Mads, 10th; Rader, 11th; Mads, 12th; Rader, 13th; Mads, 14th; Rader, 15th; Mads, 16th; Rader, 17th; Mads, 18th; Rader, 19th; Mads, 20th; Rader, 21st; Mads, 22nd; Rader, 23rd; Mads, 24th; Rader, 25th; Mads, 26th; Rader, 27th; Mads, 28th; Rader, 29th; Mads, 30th; Rader, 31st; Mads, 32nd; Rader, 33rd; Mads, 34th; Rader, 35th; Mads, 36th; Rader, 37th; Mads, 38th; Rader, 39th; Mads, 40th; Rader, 41st; Mads, 42nd; Rader, 43rd; Mads, 44th; Rader, 45th; Mads, 46th; Rader, 47th; Mads, 48th; Rader, 49th; Mads, 50th; Rader, 51st; Mads, 52nd; Rader, 53rd; Mads, 54th; Rader, 55th; Mads, 56th; Rader, 57th; Mads, 58th; Rader, 59th; Mads, 60th; Rader, 61st; Mads, 62nd; Rader, 63rd; Mads, 64th; Rader, 65th; Mads, 66th; Rader, 67th; Mads, 68th; Rader, 69th; Mads, 70th; Rader, 71st; Mads, 72nd; Rader, 73rd; Mads, 74th; Rader, 75th; Mads, 76th; Rader, 77th; 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SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK



FOOTBALL—With the Lid Off!
by **ALEX JAMES**
FAMOUS SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL & ARSENAL FORWARD

THE TRUTH OF THE RACKET MUST BE TOLD

...the truth of the racket must be told...



THE JUSTIFICATION OF ALEC JAMES

WENDLEY BATTLE STAR WIZARDRY IN THE CUP FINAL

Famous Scot Scotches His Critics

BY OUR OWN REPRESENTATIVE

On the ball: Whether he was togged out in his famous footballing gear at Hampden Park, Deepdale or Highbury, or dressed up in a business suit in the West End, Alex James possessed an uncanny knack for getting what he wanted

The little fellow in long knickers

Early in 1929 Alex James was placed on the transfer list and, in February, it was announced to a shocked Preston public that Liverpool were on the brink of signing him. It was to be another six months, however, of ballyhoo, bluff and assignations before he was finally to leave Preston North End. As he put it: "The only time a footballer can call his name and his ability his own is when it comes to that little matter of dipping a pen in the ink and writing a signature across the form."

Clubs with illusory pasts, the chance to earn championship medals, the opportunity to play with skilful players: none of these factors had the slightest influence on him, much to Preston's chagrin. He was concerned with just one thing: "Dear old Jock Ewert, my playing pal, used to tell me: 'Get all you can out of this racket. You're worth it. The people who come to watch Preston only come to see you. Cash in while you can.'"

To coin the preferred football cliché, James was concerned to secure his future: "Prominent players just then were being offered business opportunities in the larger towns. I was coming in for a good deal of favourable notice so why should my thoughts not turn to business, too?" Exactly what sort of business he had in mind, he never made clear. He was possibly a little hazy about it himself.

At first, though, James made it as clear as he could (without actually saying so) that what he really wanted was a considerable amount of money, under the counter. Liverpool, first in the race, were either unable to read his rather crude sign language or simply unwilling to pay. Next in line were Manchester City: early one morning, James was bundled into a car by manager Alex Gibson and driven to Bolton where the Wanderers were playing Liverpool in the FA Cup.

"All the Manchester City board were at an hotel and we drove up in style. I walked into a room and, there they were, sitting at a long table, waiting for the 'slave' who was being bought and sold at an auction." But, once again, James could get no assurances that any extra cash was on offer. The problem now was, however, that Manchester City had offered Preston considerably more money than Liverpool, reputedly £15,000, and the Preston people were understandably keen that James should sign. The club minutes state that the board "were prepared to accept the City offer", which made matters very awkward for James.

If a player simply continued to refuse transfer deals without good reason, the FA could assume he was asking for illegal money. The authorities were already watching the James transfer with some interest. The Manchester City directors adjourned the negotiations in order to watch the Cup tie, but once the game was over they pressed James for an answer. Would he sign? No, he said, not before he had asked his wife.

'Get all you can out of this racket. Cash in while you can. You're worth it.'

over his wife's health and that of their children. She was adamant. The City directors left.

The next morning James was summoned to Gibson's office to answer the phone: "Hello, Alex, this is Jimmy McMullen. They tell me you're coming to Manchester." Like the loyal club captain he was, McMullen tried hard to persuade James to change his mind but to no avail. Fortunately, McMullen was a close friend and promised to put Manchester City off the scent. But he had a final word of warning: "Watch your step when you do move. Certain folk may try to make it awkward for you."

As would often be the case, James had talked himself into an awkward situation but he had no obvious means of extricating himself. When he later turned down Aston Villa as well, it was clear that whoever bought James would find the League management committee keen to investigate the club books, hardly an inducement for the majority of clubs in the first division. Thus it was strange, to say the least, that Arsenal should emerge in the early spring as favourites to sign him.

While it is true that Herbert Chapman, the Arsenal manager, had been searching for some time for a creative forward in the Clem Stevenson tradition (indeed, had made inquiries almost a year earlier concerning James) it was also the case that, in 1929, Arsenal were reeling from the trauma of losing one of their founding directors, William Norris, banned from involvement in football since die for alleged financial irregular-

Alex James may have been a footballing legend, but as John Harding writes, he exercised just as much cunning off the pitch as ever he did on it for Preston and Arsenal

ities. The inquiry that had brought the abuses to light had taken place some two years earlier but, in 1929, Norris was suing the Football Association (unsuccessfully) for libel, details of the case had been leaked to the Press and Norris claimed his reputation had been impugned.

Central to the original case had been the allegation that illegal financial inducements had been paid to players to gain their signatures and, in particular, a lump sum was said to have been paid to Charlie Buchanan, Chapman's first signing upon taking over at Arsenal in 1925. Buchanan had negotiated long and hard before agreeing to come to Arsenal, demanding compensation for giving up a shop he had in his native Sunderland. During the negotiations, Norris claimed, Chapman had pleaded with the chairman to pay what Buchanan had wanted, but had left the room while the deed was done. Chapman subsequently denied all knowledge of the secret payments; Norris called him a liar. But then Chapman had good reason to distance himself from trouble.

Before he had become manager of Huddersfield Town in 1920, Chapman had been in charge of Leeds City from 1912 until 1918, on a part-time basis for the last two years, as he was also manager-in-chief of a wartime munitions factory. In December 1918 he had resigned from Leeds City to take up industrial management full time; in 1919, an inquiry into allegations that Leeds City had broken wartime regulations by paying players more than the permitted rates resulted in the club being expelled from the League. Chapman was barred, along with others, from attending football matches and taking any part in football management again.

Chapman's guilt was to remain a matter of conjecture. The Leeds club refused to reveal the books to the League, hence the decision to expel the club. Because Chapman had been absent for a considerable period of time due to his work at the munitions factory it has generally been assumed that he was the least involved of all the parties to the irregularities. In 1920, then out of work, Chapman was approached by Huddersfield to go there as manager. He put his case to the League and it was decided to lift the suspension.

Chapman appears to have managed to sail close to the wind throughout his career, without suffering disastrous consequences. Nonetheless, at the sight of James heaving into view, decked out in gaudy bow-tie, George Raft spats and tartan tither and with a negotiating style as discreet as his check-patterned plus fours, the League management committee must have wondered what they had done to deserve such good fortune. Arsenal and Chapman were obviously intent on committing football suicide.

But James, renowned for his magical Houdini acts on the field of play, was about to perform just such an act (albeit with the help of some influential friends) off it. James wrote in his memoirs that he was unable to reveal the name of the man he regarded as responsible for arranging his transfer to Arsenal. The man, he claimed,

was unwilling to come forward and take the plaudits — he was shy of publicity. "The only way out, then, is for me to introduce to you 'the mystery man behind Alex James' — Mr X."

Tom Paton — Mr X — was an extremely wealthy wool merchant who had been the power behind Bradford City ever since the club had been formed before World War I. James met Paton through his friend Jock Ewert: "I went over with Jock Ewert to see his old team, Bradford City, play Rochdale. Mr X was there and we became friends right from our first introduction."

Chapman acknowledged Pa-

lanarkshire man. He knew what Paton wanted, knew his methods.

Paton immediately appealed to Alex James (powerful, rich, self-made men usually did) and in the summer of 1929, with James becalmed — Preston away on a tour of the United States and no transfer deal signed — he went to Paton's home on the Ayrshire coast for a short holiday. On the links at Turnberry, Paton promised to help James if he could.

Later that summer, back in Nottingham with the family staying with his in-laws, James received a telegram from Mr X: "Meet me at so-and-so, in Bradford." It read: "I packed at once and caught the first available train north. When I reached Bradford I made a quick dash round to the place where I had fixed to meet Mr X. He was there. And so, to my amazement, was the great Herbert Chapman, manager of Arsenal. We all sat down for a talk."

It emerged that Chapman had contacted Preston in mid-May: the clubs had agreed a price. It was up to James. Before James could begin his laboured request for illegal cash, Paton intervened to say that he and Chapman had arranged an alternative way of solving James' "past difficulties". Chapman then revealed that a job had been arranged for him outside football. "You will act as a sports demonstrator at a West End store at a salary of £250 a year, and I have arranged a two-year contract for you." The job, Chapman explained, would circumvent the League restriction on "illegal inducements", as it was the store and not Arsenal who would apparently be offering the job. And there were no rules to prevent a professional player from having more than one job.

James was keen on the idea. "It was just what I wanted. It would give me an insight into up-to-date business methods and when that appointment ended I would be able to go into business myself. I was given details of the work and was ready to accept at once. All along I had felt that London was the best place in which I could land, though I had not been able to give voice to my thoughts."

At this point, the diplomatic wiles of Chapman came into play. With the knowledge that the League would certainly want to scrutinize the deal, he took the wind out of their sails by requesting ("in view of the statements made about the player") an inquiry himself.

Taking the precaution of obtaining James' signature first (while on another weekend golfing holiday at Turnberry) Chapman laid out the deal for the League officials to study. After hearing evidence from the various unsuccessful clubs, none of whom had anything incriminating to say, the League committee had to decide first whether Arsenal had been responsible for the sports demonstrator's appointment, second if it was a bona fide appointment and, lastly, if the player was capable of filling it.

Though they were unprepared to give Arsenal a completely clean bill of health, they eventually decided that nothing should stand in the way of the deal. They were

unhappy, they declared, "with certain things that had been said," though they made it plain they were not complaining about anything Taylor or Preston had done. They simply smelled a rat, but could prove nothing.

"The way is free" Ivan Sharpe wrote in *Athletic News* the following Monday, "for James to join Arsenal as, of course, he is willing to do provided his weekend consultation with an adviser from his native country, whose home is in the North of England, does not produce a hitch." There were, of course, no hitches. How could there be? Paton, with his close business arrangements with the top London store, had arranged the job himself. In fact, it had been the sports demonstrator's job at Selfridges that James had agreed to first: Arsenal had almost been secondary.

His salary at Selfridges of £250 a year was good when compared with the £150 a year average for most other non-executive Selfridge employees. He was also required to be in the store for far less than the average 50 hours a week most other staff were required to put in. He had to arrive

those early days, or rather nights." James, although he protested that he was an innocent at large ("after all, I was just a Scots lad from very quiet surroundings and all this London glamour was something I had only read about till then") had always been a gregarious, sociable chap: from Kirkcaldy on, he had never been one to shirk the opportunity to befriend members of the opposite sex. He was also a man very much aware of his appearance, indeed unlikely as it may sound, there was something of the dandy about him.

Clothes were a source of pleasure and pride to him and only the best would do. He had developed luxurious tastes, such as silk shirts and pyjamas; he wore the best-cut suits and went to his own tailor to have them made. Not even Selfridges' best were good enough for him — indeed he was not at all loyal to his employer's products — except for a regular flow of the latest-style Arctex shirts he supplied to the Arsenal dressing room.

His tastes became more sophisticated when he settled in London: no more loud, garish tartan checks, though he was still flamboyant and very much "in style". He was also very fastidious about the details of his appearance: nails and hands, for instance. He regularly went to a manicurist (much to the surprise of Peggy, who only found out when the shop rang up concerning a missed appointment). He went to a hairdresser in Piccadilly; he even turned up at home one morning with red toe-nails.

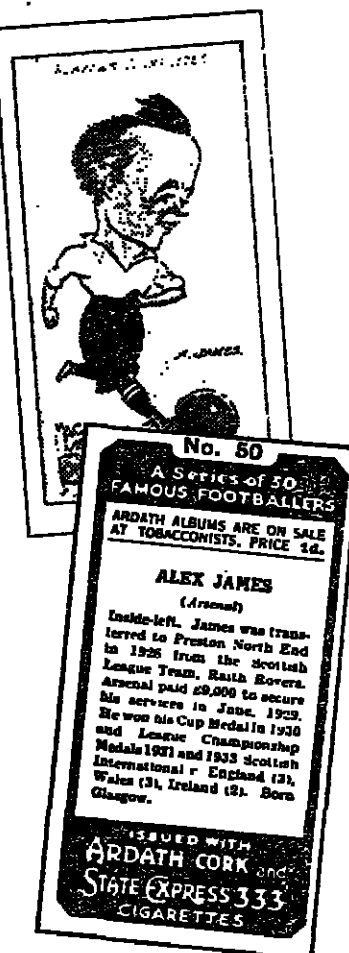
The story was that he had been visited by a Chinese chiropodist "at a friend's house" and had fallen asleep, only to wake up with his toe-nails painted. It was close to the end of the season and when the James family teamed up with David Jack and his family on holiday in Devon, he had to keep his sandals on to avoid embarrassment. How he came to be sleeping in a friend's house with a Chinese man painting his toe-nails was never fully explained; but, then, there would always remain areas of mystery about his life.

As Peggy, his wife commented: "Mrs Jack said to me: 'Where do you think Alex goes every evening?' and I said 'I don't really care as long as he comes home'. If it hadn't been for my tolerance, I suppose the marriage wouldn't have lasted. Whether he had eyes for other women, I wouldn't know. He always used to say to me 'One's enough for me'."

Girlfriends or not, being part of the glittering, privileged world of Selfridges, mingling with the celebrities, dancing to the top bands in the ballroom, rubbing shoulders with theatre luminaries, watching the fashion shows in the Palm Court, all contributed to the sense of frustration and impatience he felt with his lot as a professional footballer.

For in 1931, the contract with Selfridges ended. James' weekly wage returned to the £8 basic that all professionals received. His bubble burst. His response was immediate. He refused to sign on for Arsenal unless Chapman offered him more money. Chapman, of course, could do no such thing and so James, rather noisily, declared himself a free agent.

● This is an extract from *Alex James: Life of a Football Legend* by John Harding, published this month by Robson Books (£12.95)



'I was being built into something more than just a footballer already'

at about 2.0 most afternoons and stay until the early evening. And yet, when he had first signed the contract, he had been under the impression that he would not be required to do more than show his face occasionally. At first, as he confessed, he wondered whether or not to resign, but he did start to learn a thing or two about publicity and gradually he grew to like his afternoon trips into the West End.

"Mr A H Williams... was my boss and he started pointing out to me the value of publicity even to a footballer. He showed me how headlines, pictures and cartoons would put me on the map quite as much as my football skills. My long shorts were already known. Folks would say: 'That's Alex James, the little fellow in the long knickers'. Publicity for a footballer! But it worked. The store plastered my face and name all over the newspapers and people came into the shop in their hundreds to see the £9,000 new man of Arsenal. I was being built up into something more than just a footballer. I was becoming a crowd-puller already."

However, James would admit in 1937 that the adulation had had its drawbacks: "My job kept me in the West End in the evenings and I found too many people anxious to show me London by night when I had finished at the store. I fell into parties and found myself at all kinds of queer dives and night-clubs at an hour when any footballer ought to be fast asleep in his bed. The lights and the flash camera went to my head a bit in

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Simon Sherwood, top jockey with one eye on a training career, talks to Alan Lee

Enjoying life in the fast lane

Simon Sherwood started riding because he could no longer tolerate being introduced as just "Oliver's brother".

He then turned professional to prove to a doubting father he could make money. But there is no perverse family motivation behind his latest decision. Sherwood is preparing to take up training because, much against odds and expectations, the racing bug has seized him.

This stylish and sensitive jockey, who partners the brilliant Barnbrook Again in today's H & T Walker Gold Cup at Ascot, had never intended to make a career in racing. Nor, more pertinently, did he need to scrape a living from it.

"I'm very lucky," he concedes. "For most people in this game, racing is their food and water. I have always had a choice. If it had come to the point where I was not enjoying it, I had a cushion to fall back on."

Simon's life, indeed, was comfortably mapped out. Having qualified at Cirencester College, he was groomed to run the family farms in Essex. But, after year, his launch into the world of agriculture has been postponed in favour of one final racing ambition. Now, aged 30, the notion of farming has been abandoned for good.

"I would find it too slow," he says candidly. "I would feel I was stuck out on a limb. Besides, I would miss the friends and the lifestyle that racing has given me. If I took that course, life could easily be too nepotistic and I am not really one for the silver spoon."

Sherwood's lifestyle might once have been harshly categorized as frivolous. He admits as much. "When I was an assistant trainer in Newmarket, there were plenty of parties and plenty of fun but I didn't take racing very seriously because I saw no future in it."

It was his elder brother, Oliver, who inspired him to the elite of Lambourn trainers, who gave him incentives both deliberate and unwitting.

Simon recalls: "From the time that Oliver won the amateur riders' championship, I developed a complex about him. Everyone

seemed to speak of me as Oliver's brother. Even my father started doing it and I couldn't handle that.

"It was this sense of inferiority which persuaded me to have a go for the amateurs' title — but when I finished only fifth, it was Oliver who insisted I should give it another try."

So it was that the younger Sherwood became champion amateur in 1984 and again in 1985, whereupon another dilemma reared its head. The Jockey Club made it plain that he must either turn professional or cut back sharply on his riding. Against his better judgment, he took the plunge.

If it has changed him, the differences are superficial. Sherwood lays no claim to the qualities of frugality, self-denial and ambitious opportunism which characterized some of his contemporaries.

He singles out Peter Scudamore, Richard Dunwoody and Brendan Powell to illustrate the point. "They are immensely dedicated. I take my hat off to them. But I can't be like that."

"I would prefer to stay at home rather than drive 100 miles to ride two or three moderate horses. And when racing is over I still want to have a good crack."

"I will have a night out and put up a pound or two over the next day rather than sit at home, starving and worrying. You might call this an amateur philosophy. I call it living."

Sherwood invoked the perfect example of this attitude after an aggravating day this week.

He was on his way to Kempton to ride Desert Orchid when David Elsworth called on the car phone to say the grey would not run. Sherwood turned round and attempted to break the record journey time to Worcester, where his brother was running the promising chaser, Vicar's Landing.

The attempt was reluctantly abandoned only after an interesting debate with the Swindon police and receipt of a speeding ticket.

He conquered his frustration by organizing a dozen friends for a night out in



Stylish Simon Sherwood in action on the grey Should Never Be in the Racecall Ascot Hurdle yesterday

London featuring a suspiciously run go-karting competition. Sherwood won, taking it with all the determination he might otherwise have shown at Kempton.

The rides he has acquired for champion trainer Elsworth have undeniably prolonged his career. Two years ago, Sherwood was put on stand-by for which ever of Elsworth's King George VI runners Colin Brown or Vicar's Landing.

He recalls: "An hour before the race I still didn't know which one I was riding and, to be honest, I hoped it would be Combs Ditch. Desert Orchid was not sure to stay and he had always seemed a bit of a hairy ride."

He smiles now at that

misjudgement and well he might. "I quickly learned he is nothing of the sort. He is the greatest ride any jockey could wish for."

There is, however, another dilemma on the horizon. Sherwood believes that Desert Orchid is now better over three miles than two and that he should take his chance in the Gold Cup.

He says that, knowing that he would probably have to surrender the ride. "Oliver's horse, The West Awake, is also aimed at the race and if he gets there sound, I will ride him."

This brotherly loyalty is neither forced nor false. The

Sherwoods are a genuinely close team and, as Oliver now has more than 60 horses in his impressive yard, the brothers are likely to be seen sharing many a winner's enclosure this season.

"I think we get on because we are so similar. We are both very laid back. We relax naturally and don't worry about anything for too long."

"I can remember only one occasion when we have had a public row — that was when I was beaten on a hurdler at Newbury last season. Every-one in earshot was a bit startled but within an hour the two of us were laughing about it."

Simon selects three of his brother's horses to follow this

season — Rebel Song, about to go over fences after winning last year's Sun Alliance Hurdle, and the novice hurdler, Decided and Cruising Altitude.

For all his casual airs, you sense he is highly motivated by the winter ahead. You also sense it could easily be his last in the saddle.

"At the end of each season I reconsider my position. It will be the same this time. I'm sure. I have been looking for somewhere to train for a few months now."

"If I find the right place and I think the time is right, then I will stop riding, although while I have so many good horses available, I'm not in a hurry."

Sabin Du Loir helps Pipe pass £100,000 barrier

By George Rae

Sabin Du Loir had no trouble repeating his victory of a year ago in the Racecall Ascot Hurdle at the Berkshire course yesterday.

As a spectacle the race never threatened to raise the temperature on a chilly, blustery afternoon. Peter Scudamore soon had the 2-1 on favourite in a commanding lead, and, despite several mistakes in the latter half of the race, came home a facile 12 lengths winner from Gaye Brian.

The only serious problem Sabin Du Loir had to overcome was the fast ground, which trainer Martin Pipe admitted had caused him some concern. "It was a worrying journey here," he said. "But when I saw the ground after the first race and Peter had advised me it would be all right, I decided to run."

Pipe, who took his win prize-money to over £100,000 with this success, will be hoping for better things from Sabin Du Loir in the remainder of this season, as the nine-year-old failed to win again after his opening success last year. "Something certainly went wrong," Pipe said, "but I'm not sure precisely what it was."

Sabin Du Loir's future looks to lie over distances of three miles which will rule him out of such true stayer's races such as the Long Walk Hurdle — the scene of an odds-on defeat last year — and the Waverham Crystal Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham.

Scudamore had earlier initiated a double on Man On The Line, trained by Reg Arkhurst, in the Bingley Novices' Hurdle. It was another example of the confidence of a man riding at the peak of his form. With a muddling pace in prospect, Scudamore swiftly seized the initiative and set out to make the running. He did so flawlessly, keeping enough in reserve to hold off the newcomer Wishbon by three lengths.

"Peter asked me how to ride Man On The Line but I left it to him," Arkhurst said. "There's no point in having a jockey of that quality riding for you and then tying him down with instructions."

With stable jockey Dale McKewen engaged at Nottingham, it was Scudamore's first winner for Arkhurst, who will now attempt to qualify Man On The Line for the Philip Cornes series before giving him a break over the winter.

Indyda, the odds-on favourite, weakened rapidly in the closing stages after looking dangerous turning for home.

Fred The Tread, narrowly defeated in a match at Cheltenham last Saturday, was one better in the Hurst Park Novices' Chase, beating Biloxi Blues. "Fred The Tread has a touch of arthritis but he can usually walk it off in about 20 minutes in the morning," his trainer, Terry Casey, said. Casey has no immediate pro-

gramme mapped out for his charge, but Fred The Tread has some illustrious previous winners of this race to follow, including Desert Orchid and Townley Stone.

Biloxi Blues' trainer, Kim Bailey, had earlier been on the mark with the front-running Mr Frisk in the four-runner Punchbowl Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase.

"He was well suited by this," Bailey said, "because he loves to dominate the race and small fields are ideal for him. He's in the Hennessy but is an unlikely runner. His main objective is

Hern back at the helm

Royal trainer Dick Hern is back at the helm of his stable, having resumed control from assistant Neil Graham.

Graham confirmed yesterday that he had handed in his temporary licence, granted back in September when Hern was ordered to rest by his doctor. The stable enjoyed considerable success under Graham's temporary stewardship, winning 11 races worth more than £278,000 including the St Leger.

the Anthony Midway Chase at Sandown and it was with that race in mind we brought him here."

Prize Asser gave Minehead trainer Philip Hobbs his second consecutive success in the Charles Davis Handicap Chase, following Warner For Leisure's win a year ago.

Ridden by Simon Earle, who was fined £25 for not leaving the paddock when he was instructed, Prize Asser made all to beat Super Spark by three lengths.

"He used to be rather erratic but he jumped well today," Hobbs said. "He probably won't take a great deal of racing but I felt we had to come here with only a few chances. He's got nothing particular in mind but he needs fast ground so his programme will be largely dictated by the weather."

The disappointment of the race was the well-backed 14 favourite, Springholm, a 26-length last of the six finishers. "He was not the same horse as at Newbury last week," said trainer David Nicholson. "I'm just mystified by his performance."

Hobbs's jockey-brother Peter was successful later with Royal Craftsman in the Lion Gate Handicap Hurdle, flogging Scudamore's treble attempt on the second-placed Stag Dinner.

Trainer Alan Dunn, who, like Philip Hobbs in Minehead, has only two horses but clearly has a good servant in Royal Craftsman. "He completely ignored the last two hurdles," Dunn said, "and he'll be better over the winter. They'll give him something to think about."

Kiichi to dampen British hopes in juvenile hurdle

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

The Irish Flat season closes in style with a mixed programme at Leopardstown tomorrow and Michael Smurfit, whose firm, Smurfit plc, has contributed £115,000 to the day's prize-money, should himself be on the receiving end of at least one of the presentations.

The Smurfit Contenderboard Juvenile Hurdle, worth £125,000, by far the richest three-year-old hurdle ever staged in England or Ireland, looks made to measure for Smurfit's Kiichi.

On the Flat he finished sixth to Dark Lomond in the Irish St Leger and then made an impressive hurdling debut, winning hard held by six lengths from three previous winners, Kinky Lady, Saypore and Yozzer Hughes, at Fairyhouse.

On that performance none of the locals should offer any real threat and the one danger must be the English runner, Rowlandson Gems, trained by David Murray-Smith.

He won twice on the Flat this year before going jumping and after being twice placed at Plumpton, a track hardly suited to a genuine exploitation of his ability, he came good at Newbury, running away from Outbiter Ennau to score by eight lengths.

Rowlandson Gems is certainly a useful novice, but Kiichi can put himself in line for the Triumph Hurdle by another convincing win.

The most valuable jumping event at a meeting is the Smurfit America Handicap Chase, worth £140,000.

As the original top weight, Super Furrow, stands his ground the weights have not been raised



Geoffrey Hubbard: overweight certain for his Caddy Dale

which is bad news for Geoffrey Hubbard whose runner, Cuddy Dale, even with a 10lb penalty, has still risen to only 9st 8lb.

As Peter Scudamore's normal riding weight is 10 stone Cuddy Dale will have to carry some overweight, bringing him that much closer to the other English challenger, Yahoo.

Cuddy Dale, as a five-year-old, holds a lot of scope for further improvement and led all the way to beat Bajan Sunshine at Newbury in October.

However, he lacks the all-round experience of Yahoo, who last season included among his wins the Greenall Whitley Chase at Haydock Park. First time out this season, he was unlucky to be beaten in a photo-finish by High Edge Grey at Wetherby where he almost came down at the last jump, but rallied splendidly.

Super Furrow achieved his first win over three miles in the

Kerry National at Listowel in September but I have always rated him a better horse over 2½ miles. Likewise, the Irish Grand National winner Parris Valley would on recent runs appear to be some way short of his peak, and the Irish chaser mostly likely to peg back Yahoo and Cuddy Dale is Master Aristocrat VI.

Back in the spring he was unbeaten in three hunter chases and was then going very well in the lead when falling five fences out in the Irish National. He showed himself to be nearing his best when running up to Wolf Of Badenoch at Naas where the two miles was well short of his ideal trip.

On the Flat, Midsummer Gamble and Mistraliste, who finished first and second in the Irish Cesarewitch, could again fight out the finish in the £140,000 NCB Leopardstown November Handicap.

Mistraliste finished last of all at the Curragh and could turn the tables.

Arundel trainer John Dunlop could win the last race of the season, the Smurfit Carlton race, with Bust Devil, who won by such a wide margin over 10 furlongs at Ascot in September.

Jim Dreaper has better news of Carville's Hill, the one genuine Irish champion among the Irish jumpers. His back problem appears to be yielding to treatment and he now hopes to be able to run him at Fairyhouse on December 14.

Following the breaking-up of the partnership between Jim Bolger and Kevin Manning, Christy Roche is likely to team up on a full-time basis with Bolger next season.

Roche is losing his long-term retainer through the retirement of David O'Brien.

Surf Board facing a stiff task

Surf Board (John White) faces seven rivals in the second leg of the Sperrin of Eglis Challenge, the £13,441 Delta Air Lines Hurdle over 2m 3f at Callaway Gardens, Georgia, today.

Nicky Henderson's hurdler was only fifth in the first leg at Percy Warner Park, and faces stiff opposition again here, particularly the Jonathan Sheppard-trained duo of Summer Colony and Double Bill, who were first and second respectively that day.

John White has never ridden Surf Board before, but has schooled him at home on many occasions. The four-year-old gelding has been working at Nashville racecourse recently, and is reported to be in excellent shape.

Also in the line-up are the New Zealand-bred Grand Nudge, third at Percy Warner Park, and Wood Chisel, who the Princess Royal partnered to success at Nashville.

She now has a string of 15 at Royston, in Hertfordshire, and has sent out five winners this season. "I owe all my success to Mrs Heath. I have ridden all my winners on horses trained by her," Harding-Jones said.

"My involvement with her stable started three years ago when she asked me to ride out. There were a dozen point-to-pointers in training at the time."

Harding-Jones was quick to show his prowess in the saddle. On only his second ride at the Ampton point-to-point, in Suffolk, he rode his first winner

Harding-Jones has sights set on title

By Christopher Goulding

Perry Harding-Jones, the season's leading amateur rider under National Hunt rules, is determined not to relinquish his lead without a fight.

"It's my ambition to win the amateur title this season," Harding-Jones said. "I've ridden five winners so far and everything is going very well."

The 22-year-old, from North Wales, is far from being over-confident about capturing the coveted Corinthians' championship.

"There is a long way to go. I fear Marcus Armytage, who was runner-up to Tim Thompson Jones last time, as he will have some very good mounts later in the season."

Harding-Jones rides principally for Libby Heath, who is in her first season with a professional licence. Mrs Heath was previously very successful as a permit holder, saddling many winners in point-to-points and hunter chases.

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when partnering Double Turn for Mrs Heath.

"I have always been interested in horses and messing around with ponies when I was a youngster. It was my father who got me interested in racing. He used to ride in point-to-points."

When Harding-Jones is not racing he earns his living helping his father and brother run the Essex International Boarding and Quarantine Kennels.

Harding-Jones is understandably very grateful for the support he has had from Mrs Heath. "She is a very good trainer and does a great job. Her horses are always very fit and are turned out in superb condition. She often wins the best-turned-out awards."

Mrs Heath provided Harding-Jones with the highlight of his career in September when he rode a double at Southwell on the former hunter chaser, Corked, and Double Turn.

Now with 15 winners under rules and eight in point-to-points, Harding-Jones is carefully monitoring his mounts. "I will be very selective about my mounts against professionals, owners have to pay for your services."

Harding-Jones has no thoughts of turning professional at the moment, despite being able to ride at under ten stone.

"I just want to go for that title," he said. "Libby Heath was instrumental in helping Simon Sherwood's career and he went on to win the amateurs' championship."

Curley produces prints in defence of Murphy

Barney Curley yesterday at Ascot produced polaroid photographs, which, he claimed, proved his stable jockey Declan Murphy to have been unjustly treated by the stewards over his riding of Mather at Kempton Park Wednesday (George Rae writes).

Mather, trained at Newmarket by Ian Matthews, finished third in the Fairview New Homes Handicap Hurdle, and Murphy was subsequently referred to Purman Square for his riding on the stable, a prohibited area.

"The photographs, which were taken at 6.35 that evening, show the stable to be unmarked. I have spoken to a senior vet in Newmarket who told me that the stewards don't know what they're talking about," said Curley, still enraged by what he sees as a witch hunt against his jockey.

"Declan is being persecuted," Curley went on, "and I'm concerned about the effect it is having on his confidence."

He was told by Major Peter Stewards, the senior stewards' steward, to chase his whip action because it was too high. Declan went away for a fortnight, worked hard to change his action, then he comes back and is done for hitting too low."

Curley's commitment to his stable jockey is beyond question, but whether his personal campaign will have any positive effect on the Jockey Club remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, Murphy was at Nottingham yesterday, riding Royal Derby to victory in the Merit Hurdle for another Newmarket trainer, Neville Callaghan.

The six-year-old was so distressed after the race that Smart thought he was trying to die. However, he has made a complete recovery.

"I am now waiting to hear from the Jockey Club," Smart said. "They have carried out their own tests and they can draw their own conclusions."

The five-furlong course at Warwick is, along with Chester, the nearest you get in England to American-style racing. They go flat out from the start and there is a sharp bend into the straight. The draw favours horses on the outside; they have farther to travel but the ground is softer, particularly on soft going.

The parking arrangements are Warwick's biggest drawback. Space is limited and if you arrive late, they put you further away than the tents.

Rating

One jockey's cap denotes eight two, Bearable (three) average four, Very Good, five, Excellent.

Martin Trew

of Racing Post

Trainers poised for record overseas haul

British trainers look sure to break the record for overseas earnings this week-end. They are just over £5,000 adrift of the record annual total of £4,728,214, set in 1986.

John Dunlop, one of the chief contributors to this year's tally, currently lies in second place in the individual trainers' standings with £634,791, and may close the gap on leader Luca Cumani (£719,752) at the Capannelle, Rome, tomorrow.

He saddles Dark Singer (John Reid) and Prince Ibrahim (Willie Carson) for the £32,000 added Premio Guido Bernardelli (100), and both colts have excellent place chances at least against this moderate opposition. The English challenge is supplemented by Michael Jarvis's West Wrenham (Michel Jerome).

At Toulouse tomorrow, Professional Girl (Freddie Head) runs in the £22,000 Prix Marc Sarrad (120). Cash Assmusen's quest to ride 200 winners this season will add extra spice to the card. The Texan's score is currently 195.

French-trained Nupsala has

Pat's Jester to attempt Bula repeat

Pat's Jester is none the worse for his heavy fall in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle last Saturday and will try to repeat his 1987 victory in the Charles Heston Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham on December 10.

Richard Allan, trainer of Pat's Jester, gave the good news of his stable star after saddling his first winner of the season, Cool Jamie, in the Mossblown Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase at Ayr yesterday.

Cool Jamie beat Ray's Song by five lengths with General Advance a head away third.

After saddling Carrick Hill Lad to win the Blackhouse Novices' Hurdle, Gordon Richards said that he is unlikely to be represented in next Saturday's Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury.

"I don't expect The Langholm Dyer to run and Rinnus only goes if the ground is soft enough for him," Richards said.

Total prize-money at Ayr in 1989 will exceed £850,000, an increase of more than 10 per cent on 1988. The Scottish National meeting in April will become a four-day festival,

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A series of weekly reports on Britain's racecourses

No 12: WARWICK

Warwick racecourse is overlooked by a church. When our horse is beaten in a photo, or falls at the first, it is possible after your obscenities with discretion. Like the eyes on the giant sculpture and various other Warwick appears to favour waiting tactics. Often it lies buried behind cloud all afternoon only to appear soon after the last, turning the grandstand gold.

Whereas other racecourses are suddenly miserable when people start going home, Warwick comes into its own. You can linger for ages, gradually coming to terms with that afternoon's disasters.

The grandstand is Edwardian and is rather elaborate, with a balcony and various other adornments. No doubt it will one day be condemned but for the time being it provides excellent viewing.

Warwick is a minor course but is soon to achieve a sort of fame.

THE GOOD RACECOURSE GUIDE

An episode of the television series *Boys* was filmed there this autumn during racing. The grandstand bulged with a crowd of extras who had taken such pains to look like racers they looked completely unrealistic.

Warwick racers are not scruffy but neither do they all wear brand new deer-stalkers.

The clerk of the course is Edward Gillespie, who also officiates at Cheltenham. Warwick may be in his shadow, but Gillespie reveals in the task of exploiting its possibilities to the full.

Warwick is one of the better courses at which to entertain. The boxes are relatively cheap, the atmosphere informal and guests are well looked after by Drewetts, a firm of independent caterers who could teach the bigger firms a thing or two.

The racing itself is nothing to get excited about but there are

always plenty of runners. It is the sort of course where Arab blue-bloods from Newmarket are beaten by Midlands-trained family pets.

There is a sense of history about Warwick racecourse, a pleasantly archaic atmosphere. It was no surprise to learn from the record books that horses have raced there since 1714.

It would be easy to say that the running trails don't appear to have seen much pain since then and perhaps they haven't. But the turf is well looked after, which is more important.

In the winner's enclosure, Gillespie has laid down artificial

turf, which is a way contradicts everything Warwick stands for, but in hindsight it was a good idea. The area used to become a mud-bath in the winter and for chasers who had galloped their legs, it meant more mud being rubbed into the wound. The plastic turf has been down for over a year now and is becoming slippery (H Thompson Jones very nearly went down last October) but a new surface will soon replace it.

From the jockeys' point of view, Warwick is on the sharp side. There is a hill soon after the runners pass the stands behind which they disappear for

ALL THE DETAILS

Saffron Lord to lead Gifford treble

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Josh Gifford and Richard Rowe looked poised to take Ascot by storm today by winning the first three races with Saffron Lord (1.0), Saffron Lord (1.30) and Nodform (2.5).

In preferring Saffron Lord to Barnbrook again for the H & T Gold Cup, I am swayed by the fact that he has won over today's distance of 2½ miles, both over fences and hurdles, whereas Barnbrook again has never won beyond two miles and a furlong.

The one attempt Barnbrook again had at the trip last season ended in failure at Chesham in February when he was beaten five lengths by one of Saffron Lord's stable companions, Foyle Fisherman.

On the only occasion that the two have met over fences though, Barnbrook again got the better of the argument in the Arkle Challenge Trophy at Cheltenham.

In that instance they finished third and fifth respectively.

Josh Gifford, high hopes of gaining Ascot treble

travelling split by eight lengths. In receipt of 11lb now Saffron Lord is weighted to get his revenge.

This season, the two have gone their different ways; Saffron Lord to Newbury, where he got up on the line to pip the Arkle winner Double Flight, while Barnbrook again went to Devon & Exeter, where he trounced Panto Prince.

Both were good performers, Saffron Lord's particularly so. Four Trix, who beat Brandy Hambro by 25 lengths at Bangor last time, looks the pick of the remainder.

Vodkatini, who made a triumphant start to his season by winning on the course three weeks ago, can trigger off the Gifford-Rowe bonanza by winning the Manicou Handicap Chase.

When Long Engagement won the corresponding race 12 months ago he was carrying only 10st 2lb. Now he has 26lb more on his back.

Whereas Vodkatini looked in need of a race before he beat Royal Stag over today's course



Josh Gifford: high hopes of gaining Ascot treble

of his going days, he will be hard to beat.

As Nomadic Way would have had the legs of both Laidet and Peer Prince on the Flat, he is taken to beat them both now in the Aurelius Hurdle following that polished jumping debut at Sandown a fortnight ago when easily accounting for the impressive Newbury winner Rowlandson's Gems.

At Ayr, Raise An Argument can justify Monica Dickinson's decision to pull out of the Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham a week ago because of the ground by winning the Tennesse Handicap Chase on going that he will now relish.

Nos Na Goithe (3.0) and Agalust (1.15), who finished behind Brookmount at Chesham, can capture the novice chase at Ayr and Warwick, while Nohadon is another interesting recruit from hurdling who should prove hard to beat in the Coked Hat Farm Novices' Chase at Catterick Bridge.

He impressed me at Windsor nine days ago when he was beaten only half a length on his seasonal debut by the race-fit Fawcett Boy.

Assault, my selection for the Snow Hill Handicap Hurdle, is brimful with ability as he showed only too clearly when winning at Windsor a week ago.

But he also has a mind of his own, as he showed at Newbury in March when declining to race. If this is one

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Wilton extends winning run

Smoke-on-Trent trainer Sue Wilton, in only her second season with a licence, equalled her score for the week when her stable Sharp Order landed the Lake Conditions Jockeys Selling Hurdle at Nottingham yesterday.

Sharp Order was her twelfth winner of the season and her fourth from only five runners in the last nine days. The stable's recent run of success began with Bickerstaffe at Uttoxeter last week and on Monday, at Wolverhampton, Miss Wilton landed a double with Fanchen Vane and Grey General.

Miss Wilton said: "I have a string of 25 and at the beginning of the season set myself a target of 25 winners. I would have been well pleased to reach double figures by Christmas," she said before retaining Sharp Order for another week without a bid.

Royal Derby, who gained his fifth win from eight outings over hurdles when running right away from the opposition in the Merit Three-Year-Old Hurdle,

may turn out again at Ascot today where he will face a far more difficult task in the Hurdle.

Trainer Neville Callaghan said: "I shall wait and see how Royal Derby has come out of this race tomorrow morning. His London owner John Lockhart wanted him to start at Ascot but I considered today's opportunity was too good to miss."

"I really don't like running a horse two days running but Mr Lockhart could not get here today and will be at Ascot," Callaghan added that Willie Humphries, yesterday's successful jockey, would ride Royal Derby again if he runs at Ascot.

With odds of 7-4 laid on him, Royal Derby was left in the lead at the fourth flight, where Kingfisher Bay, unseated Tom O'Hagen, and turned for home with a clear lead. Humphries eased the favourite before the post to win by eight lengths from Rose Gardania.

Steve Smith Eccles escaped unhurt but shaken from a nasty fall from Take A Liberty at the third last flight. "A loose horse came right into me," he said.

There were only three runners for the Stour Novices' Chase but the trio made a race of it by jumping the last four fences virtually in line.

Artie Chief, the 11-10 favourite, got to the front on the run-in and Ben De Haan, who had lost his form when he made a mistake at the seventh fence, kept the gelding going to hold Stormguard by three-quarters of a length.

Former jump jockey Buck Jones, who has a string of six wins, was saddling his first winner of the season. He trained Artie Chief for Ray Hawthorn, who lives in the Guildford area.

Jones had only two horses running on the Flat for him during the summer, Sporting Idol and Moore Frolicking, but both won.

ASCOT

Selections
By Mandarin

1.00 Vodkatini.
1.30 Saffron Lord.
2.05 Nodform.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.35 Salehurst.
The Times Private Racecaster's top rating: 2.35 AUGHAVOGUE.

Going: good to firm

1.0 MANICOU HANDICAP CHASE (€5,672: 2m) (5 runners)

102 21100-F LONG ENGAGEMENT 22 (D.J. Davies) D Nicholson 7-12-0 G Shawood 98
103 21114-1 VODKATINI 21 (D.J. Davies) D Nicholson 7-12-0 G Shawood 98
104 21126-3 WARMER FOR LEISURE 7 (D.J. Davies) D Nicholson 7-12-0 G Shawood 98
105 14122-2 HYPOCHYSIS 240 (D.J. Davies) D Nicholson 7-12-0 G Shawood 98
106 32212-1 THE WELDER 8 (D.J. Davies) D Nicholson 7-12-0 G Shawood 98

Long Engagement, the 11-10 favourite, was the only horse to win the race last season.

BETTING: 7-4 Vodkatini, 2-1 The Welder, 3-1 Warmer For Leisure, 11-10 Long Engagement, 12-1 Hypochysis.

1.30 H & T WALKER GOLD CUP CHASE (Limited handicap: Feature: €22,052: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

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2.35 RIP CHASE (Handicap: £7,557: 3m) (8 runners)

101 5333-1 MEMBERSHIP 20 (D.J. Davies) D Nicholson 7-12-0 G Shawood 98
102 5333-2 MEMBERSHIP 20 (D.J. Davies) D Nicholson 7-12-0 G Shawood 98
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IAN STEWART

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Yorkshire Central League v Northumbria (11.40);
 Durham v Lancashire (1.35);
 Yorkshire v Lancashire Central League (2.55);
 Durham v Sheffield League (10.15);
 Cheshire v Cumbria (11.40); Manchester
 League v Cheshire (1.30); Sheffield
 League v Northumbria (2.55); South
 Hampshire Sports Centre, Basingstoke
 Sussex (11.0); Buntingford v Wiltshire
 (1.0); Oxfordshire v Surrey (3.0); West
 Dorset Sports Centre, Swindon; Avon v
 Wiltshire (8.15); Devon v Somerset
 (10.45); Cornwall v Gloucestershire
 (12.15); Herefordshire v Avon (2.0); Dorset
 v Devon (3.30); Wiltshire v Somerset
 (4.45); Cornwall v Herefordshire (5.15).

League v Cheshire (1.30); Shropshire League v Northumberland (2.55); South Southampton Sports Centre; Berkshire v Sussex (11.0); Buntingfordshire v Middlesex (1.0); Oxfordshire v Surrey (3.0); West Dorset Sports Centre, Swindon; Wiltshire v Wiltshire (3.15); Devon v Somerset (1.045); Cornwall v Gloucestershire (12.15); Herefordshire v Avon (2.0); Dorset v Devon (3.30); Wiltshire v Somerset (4.45); Cornwall v Herefordshire (5.15).

Doncaster Sports Centre, Swindon; Avon v. Wiltshire (8.15); Devon v. Somerset (10.45); Cornwall v. Gloucestershire (12.15); Herefordshire v. Avon (2.0); Dorset v. Devon (3.30); Wiltshire v. Somerset (4.45); Cornwall v. Herefordshire (5.15).

4.45: Cornwell v. Henshaw (15)

HOCKEY

Gymkhana reinforce for clash at Feltham

By Sydney Friskin
Once again two top class matches in the Pondsreacher National League will be played concurrently on adjacent pitches today at Feltham where Indian Gymkhana will face Old Loughborough and Hounslow take on Cambridge City.

Indian Gymkhana have brought Abreo, formerly of Blackheath, into their attack in place of the suspended Gurcharan Singh who was sent off last week with a red card for dangerous play. Wasim, but also comes into the squad as an additional defender.

These reinforcements have been called up as safeguards against the unbeaten Old Loughborough, but on the trail of the Hounslow in fourth place. Hounslow, who have a comparatively easier task against Cambridge City but are taking nothing for granted, have not quite solved their injury problems. Although Hazim back in defence, Rob Thompson who has scored nine goals, is still out of action. Cambridge City have fallen on hard times. Third from the bottom they have won only one match and lost the remaining five.

Both Indian Gymkhana and Hounslow are attempting to take over the leadership from Havant who themselves face no easy task at home against Bromley for whom Richards has

Scored five goals mainly from set pieces. Havant's attack has been strengthened by the return of Cave.

The management committee has agreed to the postponement of the match between Harborne, the home side, and Welton, several of whose players were injured in a road accident last Sunday.

Southgate will have an emergency meeting at their club premises this morning before going on to the New River Stadium at White Hart Lane to play Stourport, fifth in the table and capable of making a strong challenge. Imran Sherwani is in the squad.

Teddington, who are away to Slough at Uxbridge, are without Paul Smith because of injury and there are fitness doubts about Camburn and Lang. Five Olympic gold medal winners, Pappin, Bhauria, Barber, Crimley and Potter, will play for Great Britain 'XII' against Havant tomorrow to mark the official opening of Havant's artificial turf pitch. Two other gold medal winners, Faulkner and Garcia, will play for Havant.

CRICKET: BATSMEN OFFER SCANT RESISTANCE TO WEST INDIES PACE ATTACK ON A PLACID PITCH



In safe hands: Logie dives at full-stretch to claim the wicket of Marsh from the bowling of Ambrose in Australia's first innings in Brisbane yesterday

Australia fail to pass a speed test

From Qamar Ahmed
Brisbane

Australia capitulated under the weight of the West Indies pace bowlers to be all out for a paltry 167 on the first day of the first Test here yesterday. It was Australia's lowest score against West Indies at the Gabba, and by the close Greenidge and Haynes had tightened the tourists' grip on the game, compiling 39 for the first wicket.

After Marshall had lost Patterson, his new-ball partner, midway through his fourth over with a strained knee, he was joined by Ambrose and Walsh in reducing the Australian top order to tatters.

On a pitch which appeared to be full of runs, it was indeed a remarkable performance by the West Indian pace trio who bowled nearly all through the day, rarely faltering in length and direction. Marshall made the initial breakthrough after 40 minutes' play when Boon was trapped leg-before to an inswinger for 10.

Veletta, promoted in the batting order, and Marsh then

began an alliance which took the score past 50. Their 33-run stand ended when Marsh, sending off a lifting delivery from Ambrose, ballooned a catch to Logie who dived full-length at short-leg. Marsh had been at the crease for 106 minutes in making 27 runs.

After lunch, Ambrose inflicted two blows in quick succession to have Australia reeling at 76 for four. Wood, twice struck on the body by Ambrose and Marshall before lunch, popped up a simple catch to Greenidge in the gully from the first ball after lunch.

Section 16(1)(2) referred to the exchange of cash or cheque for chips as a transaction for the purpose of enabling gambling to take place, not as a gambling transaction. If a contract had been made under which the customer had exchanged cash for chips, it had not been a contract by way of gaming or wagering within 18 of the 1845 Act.

No bet had then been made, and no money had been paid to the customer. The club had not been a constructive trustee of the money. The club had not been a constructive trustee of the money. The club had not been a constructive trustee of the money.

The relationship between the parties was contractual. The bank's principal obligation was to honour its customer's cheques in accordance with its mandate. Nothing in such a contract could require a banker to consider the commercial wisdom of a particular transaction, nor was there any express term requiring him to exercise any degree of care in deciding whether to honour a customer's cheque which his instructions required him to pay.

Any implied term requiring him to exercise care had to be limited. Presented with a cheque drawn in accordance with the terms of the mandate, a banker had to honour it, save in exceptional circumstances. His Lordship hesitated to try to lay down detailed rules in this context. Only where any reasonable banker would have hesitated to pay a cheque at once and refer it to his superior and where any reasonable superior would have hesitated to authorize payment with inquiry should a cheque not be paid immediately and such an inquiry be made.

Further, it would be only in rare circumstances and only where a reasonable manager would do the same that a manager should instruct his staff to refer all or some of his customer's cheques to him before payment.

On the evidence before him the judge had been wrong to conclude that the bank had acted in such a way as to render itself a constructive trustee for the plaintiffs or, by its manager, had committed any breach of the limited duty of care owed to them as its current account customers.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER said that had Cass paid the stolen cash into his own account and then drawn a cheque on that account for the same amount in favour of the club, exchanging it from cash or tokens, the club would not have been prevented by section 18 of the 1845 Act from recovering on the cheque if it had been dishonoured: see

and Border flicking at a ball down to leg-side was caught at the wicket. He may perhaps have been unlucky with the decision but the umpire, Tony Crafter, was in no doubt. Waugh's dismissal, 10 runs later leg-before to Marshall for four, continued the slide. Veletta was the only recognized batsman to offer true defiance. The young Western Australian faced 107 balls in more than three hours to add 37 valuable runs before he was bowled by Hooper, the off-spinner, deflecting the ball from his bat and pad as he attempted to sweep.

The innings was already in disarray when Healy, the Queensland wicketkeeper, making his first Test appearance at his home ground, contributed an admirable 27. It took him 83 minutes but ended tamely when he clipped a delivery from Walsh into Logie's hands at ball-pod.

Walsh then captured the wickets of McDermott for two, and Matthews for one, both caught behind by Dujon. Dodemaide made a stylish 22 before his dismissal provided another milestone in the Test career of Richards. Dodemaide top-edged a delivery from Walsh towards a vacant fine leg but Richards raced over from first slip to take the catch - his hundredth in Test cricket, appropriately enough in his hundredth Test match.

With the wicket playing as it is, West Indies look set to compile a sizeable total and frustrate an already mediocre Australian bowling attack which is glaringly exposed by the absence of their main strike bowler, Reid, who is out with back injury.

WEST INDIES: First innings
G R Marsh c Logie b Ambrose 27
D L Boun b Walsh 10
D L Veletta b Hooper 27
G R Wood c Greenidge b Ambrose 4
A R Border c Dujon b Ambrose 6
S R Waugh b Marshall 27
T A Healy c Logie b Walsh 27
C J McDermott c Logie b Walsh 2
D L Matthews c Dujon b Walsh 1
T B A May not out 1
Total 167

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-52, 3-84, 4-76, 5-86, 6-126, 7-140, 8-150, 9-150, 10-150, 11-150, 12-150, 13-150, 14-150, 15-150, 16-150, 17-150, 18-150, 19-150, 20-150, 21-150, 22-150, 23-150, 24-150, 25-150, 26-150, 27-150, 28-150, 29-150, 30-150, 31-150, 32-150, 33-150, 34-150, 35-150, 36-150, 37-150, 38-150, 39-150, 40-150, 41-150, 42-150, 43-150, 44-150, 45-150, 46-150, 47-150, 48-150, 49-150, 50-150, 51-150, 52-150, 53-150, 54-150, 55-150, 56-150, 57-150, 58-150, 59-150, 60-150, 61-150, 62-150, 63-150, 64-150, 65-150, 66-150, 67-150, 68-150, 69-150, 70-150, 71-150, 72-150, 73-150, 74-150, 75-150, 76-150, 77-150, 78-150, 79-150, 80-150, 81-150, 82-150, 83-150, 84-150, 85-150, 86-150, 87-150, 88-150, 89-150, 90-150, 91-150, 92-150, 93-150, 94-150, 95-150, 96-150, 97-150, 98-150, 99-150, 100-150, 101-150, 102-150, 103-150, 104-150, 105-150, 106-150, 107-150, 108-150, 109-150, 110-150, 111-150, 112-150, 113-150, 114-150, 115-150, 116-150, 117-150, 118-150, 119-150, 120-150, 121-150, 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233-150, 234-150, 235-150, 236-150, 237-150, 238-150, 239-150, 240-150, 241-150, 242-150, 243-150, 244-150, 245-150, 246-150, 247-150, 248-150, 249-150, 250-150, 251-150, 252-150, 253-150, 254-150, 255-150, 256-150, 257-150, 258-150, 259-150, 260-150, 261-150, 262-150, 263-150, 264-150, 265-150, 266-150, 267-150, 268-150, 269-150, 270-150, 271-150, 272-150, 273-150, 274-150, 275-150, 276-150, 277-150, 278-150, 279-150, 280-150, 281-150, 282-150, 283-150, 284-150, 285-150, 286-150, 287-150, 288-150, 289-150, 290-150, 291-150, 292-150, 293-150, 294-150, 295-150, 296-150, 297-150, 298-150, 299-150, 300-150, 301-150, 302-150, 303-150, 304-150, 305-150, 306-150, 307-150, 308-150, 309-150, 310-150, 311-150, 312-150, 313-150, 314-150, 315-150, 316-150, 317-150, 318-150, 319-150, 320-150, 321-150, 322-150, 323-150, 324-150, 325-150, 326-150, 327-150, 328-150, 329-150, 330-150, 331-150, 332-150, 333-150, 334-150, 335-150, 336-150, 337-150, 338-150, 339-150, 340-150, 341-150, 342-150, 343-150, 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788-150, 789-150, 790-150, 791-150, 792-150, 793-150, 794-150, 795-150, 796-150, 797-150, 798-150, 799-150, 800-150, 801-150, 802-150, 803-150, 804-150, 805-150, 806-150, 807-150, 808-150, 809-150, 810-150, 811-150, 812-150, 813-150, 814-150, 815-150, 816-150, 817-150, 818-150, 819-150, 820-150, 821-150, 822-150, 823-150, 824-150, 825-150, 826-150, 827-150, 828-150, 829-150, 830-150, 831-150, 832-150, 833-150, 834-150, 835-150, 836-150, 837-150, 838-150, 839-150, 840-150, 841-150, 842-150, 843-150, 844-150, 845-150, 846-150, 847-150, 848-150, 849-150, 850-150, 851-150, 852-150, 853-150, 854-150, 855-150, 856-150, 857-150, 858-150, 859-150, 860-150, 861-150, 862-150, 863-150, 864-150, 865-150, 866-150, 867-150, 868-150, 869-150, 870-150, 871-150, 872-150, 873-150, 874-150, 875-150, 876-150, 877-150, 878-150, 879-150, 880-150, 881-150, 882-150, 883-150, 884-150, 885-150, 886-150, 887-150, 888-150, 889-150, 890-150, 891-150, 892-150, 893-150, 894-150, 895-150, 896-150, 897-150, 898-150, 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Each depression is effectively fuelled by the energy in the warm, moist wedge of air sandwiched between the cold and warm fronts. Over

Judy Froshaug

PROPERTY

Long day's journey into work

City salaries and country living — Nicole Swengley reports on the commuters who can have both

London's rail commuters are again facing huge fare increases from January 8 — some as high as 21 per cent. Yet far from being deterred by the expense, growing numbers of city workers are leaving their London homes in favour of a rural upbringing for their children and more living space.

Their sights, however, are set wider than the traditional commuting grounds of the Home Counties. The new long-distance commuters are travelling from as far afield as Somerset and East Anglia, even Wales and Scotland, combining life in a place they love with work — and salary levels — which may be available only in London.

Sally Peck lives in rural splendour with her three dogs halfway between Ely and Cambridge, in a listed Georgian farmhouse which she bought five years ago. She catches the 7.39am from Waterbeach station in order to reach her job as media manager at The Harrison Agency in central London by 9.30am. That means getting up at 6.30am, and because the advertising world often involves late meetings, she frequently arrives home at about 10pm.

"It's the house I always wanted, and although I tried working locally a few years ago, I soon moved back to London because the quality of work was better and the salaries were higher," she explains. "But it leaves me absolutely exhausted and I have to leave all my socializing to weekends. Even then I spend a lot of the time sleeping."

Chartered accountant Barry Thomas lives on a Welsh hill farm in the Brecon Beacons. Working in Mayfair means an early rise at 6.15am and the 7.40am from Newport to reach his desk by 9.25am. He can catch the 5.20pm home and walk through his front door at 7.40pm.

"It's the most civilized form of commuting I've ever done," he says. "Commuting from Buckinghamshire was far worse. On the 125 I often have two seats to myself in the morning and have a coffee while I work or read a newspaper."

"Statistically, it's madness. I travel five-and-a-half hours daily and 80,000 miles a year. And the annual season ticket is just under £3,000. But our general rates are £250 annually and we pay no water rates. A totally acceptable meal locally is £8 a head so I feel the fare is easily recouped."

I'm a family person and we're all outdoors people — my children have horses and my sons fish — and we balance life with trips to London to the theatre and opera."

John Bannister's home really is his castle — Ackergill Tower, a 15th-century castle near Wick in Caithness. "I can get to Wick from London quicker than travelling to Birmingham," he says. "There are seven flights a day and the 9am flight from Heathrow via Inverness means I'm in my castle by 11.25am; equally the 8.40am from Wick via Aberdeen gets me into Heathrow at 11am."

Bannister has spent two years refurbishing the castle, which he now offers for conferences and private executive use. "I didn't exactly go in search of a castle," he explains. "It just fired my imagination. When there are guests I live at the gatehouse cottage, but when no one is in the castle I move into the Blue Room, overlooking the sea."

Since Barry Smith started his own advertising agency near Oxford Circus a year ago, he has collected several clients on his daily journey between Bristol and Paddington. "A lot of business moves along the 125," he points out, "so I just treat it as an extension of my working circle."

Home is a 16th-century farmhouse at Burrington in the foothills of the Mendips. Once he arrives at Paddington he cycles to work, on the return journey leaving his bicycle overnight in the station's left luggage office for £1 a week.

"It takes me 25 minutes to drive to the station, and the train journey is just over an hour, which is long enough to be useful in terms of doing a bit of work. It gives you time to reflect or have a few drinks with fellow commuters on the way back. There's quite a social life on the train."

Freelance television producer Mike Chapman drives to London from his Somerset home at Castle Cary. "It's a lot of driving," he admits, "but the torture of the morning is quickly forgotten. After all, it used to take me 45 minutes to drive from Hampton to Kew, then take a crowded tube to Hammersmith and walk to the BBC — a one-and-a-half hour journey. It only takes half an hour longer from Somerset, and that's a distance of 110 miles compared with just 12."

It was an Elizabethan-cum-Georgian townhouse which attracted the Chapmans to Castle Cary. "My wife and I like gardening so we enjoy the benefits of peace and the comforts of rural life, as well as the excitement of London."

Dee Powers, marketing manager of Courteille, lives in Linton, a small Yorkshire village outside Wetherby, and catches the 7.15am from Leeds to reach her London office by 9.45am.

"I've been commuting for 10 years and think I've just about reached the end of the line," she says. "If they just made it a little more comfortable it would be a lot better. The new fares are really a bit tough to swallow considering that standards have dropped dramatically since I've been commuting. Even so, I love living in a rural place and reckon I get the best of both worlds by commuting."

The 5.50pm from King's Cross gets Powers home by 8.45pm. During the journey she catches up on background reading which is vital to her job. "I do my best thinking on the way to London, away from the phone, but I do resent the time spent travelling on the way home in the evenings."

John Sawkins is Bourne-mouth born and bred and has commuted to London for 15 years, where he currently works in a Covent Garden advertising agency. "It does



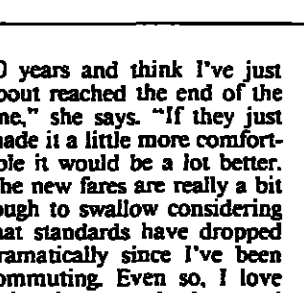
Sally Peck lives in a Georgian farmhouse near Ely and works in central London. She is up at 6.30am and home at 10pm

'I leave all my socializing to weekends'



Mike Chapman drives 220 miles every day from his Elizabethan town house in Somerset to London, and back again

'The torture of the morning is soon forgotten'



'He combats the boredom of a regular journey on the 6.55am with bridge sessions'

"There are always at least six of us who play; sometimes as many as 12. It takes your mind off the day's problems and I find it far more relaxing than reading a newspaper."

"In general terms, I think British Rail offers value for money in spite of the recent fare rise. Overall, it provides a reasonably good service bearing in mind the volume of traffic at peak hours, although it is a bit frustrating when there are delays."

John Bannister owns Ackergill Tower, a 15th-century castle in Caithness, but can take the 8.40am flight from Wick via Aberdeen and be at Heathrow at 11am

'I get to Wick from London quicker than to Birmingham'



Barry Smith drives from his 16th-century Mendips farmhouse to Bristol, and an hour later is getting on his bike at Paddington

'A lot of business moves along the 125'



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK PEPPER



Barry Thomas has a farm in the Brecon Beacons and a job in Mayfair. He catches the 7.40am from Newport to be at work by 9.25am, and arrives home at 7.40pm

'It's the most civilized form of commuting I've ever done'

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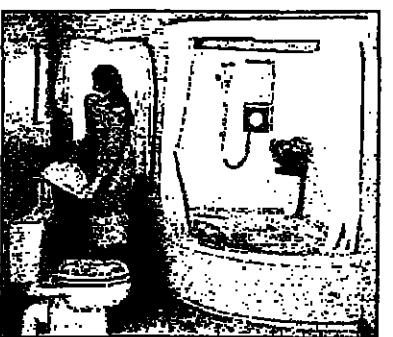
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